

Mount Laurel Municipal Utilities Authority's Response to Recent Articles on Total Chromium and Chromium-6 in Drinking Water

The Mount Laurel MUA is aware of the reports raising concerns about the presence of a metal, Chromium-6, being found in much of the tested public water supply throughout the Country. We take water quality seriously and would like our customers to be assured that the Mount Laurel MUA is in full compliance with all Federal EPA and New Jersey DEP regulations.

There is currently no limit for Chromium-6, but the EPA's limit on Total Chromium is 100 parts per billion (ppb), the Mount Laurel MUA's water tested less than 1 parts per billion (ppb) for chromium-6. For more information please visit the following websites:

www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations/chromium-drinking-water

www.epa.gov/dwucmr/third-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule

<http://www.mltmua.com/alerts.html>

Frequently Asked Questions

What is chromium and how does it get into drinking water?

- Chromium is an odorless and tasteless metallic element. It is found naturally in rocks, plants and soil and also found in humans and animals.
- There are two common forms of chromium;
 - Chromium -3 is an essential human dietary element found in vegetable, meats, fruits, grains and yeast. Chromium-3 can be found in most multi-vitamins.
 - Chromium-6 (also known as hexavalent chromium) can be generated from natural deposits of chromium in soils as well as produced by industrial processes such as steel manufacturing and pulp mills.

Is chromium in drinking water regulated?

- Yes. The EPA sets national drinking water standards and established a limit for total chromium of 100 parts per billion (ppb), which includes all forms of chromium (3 and 6).

- The state of California has set a more stringent standard for total chromium; the California enforceable limit for total chromium is 50 ppb (the equivalent of 1 second in 32 years).
- If a water system exceeds the established limit, customers must be notified and the system must take action to address the high levels.

What about home water treatment devices and bottled water?

- Water provided by the Mount Laurel MUA is already lower than the EPA's standards, so there are no special actions that our customers need to take.
- There are home treatment devices that are certified by industry organizations to remove chromium-6. It is important to note that these certifications are based on the standard of 100 ppb which is the standard we are following.

Regulations for chromium in bottled water, which are enforced by the food and drug administration, also include the same standard of 100 ppb for total chromium, just like tap water. Bottled water manufacturers may have specific information on chromium-6 levels for their products.