

## Action Level List for Private Wells

March, 2004

Groundwater in Connecticut can be affected by chemical contamination from a variety of sources such as leaking underground fuel storage tanks and surface spills. Depending on the volume spilled, local conditions, and chemical nature of the substance, the result can be groundwater contamination. Such contamination may present a health risk to those who use private wells as a source of water for drinking, bathing, washing, or cooking.

If well contamination exceeds the value shown on the "Action Level List" (see below), then the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CTDEP) is authorized to provide treatment or bottled water to residents. The Action Levels are set by the Department of Public Health (DPH), and include the most common contaminants. If a contaminant is not on the list, CT DEP may ask DPH to evaluate the public health risk of contamination for the specific chemical. The concentrations on the Action Level List are set low enough to avoid any health risks from exposure.

The Action Level List is included in the following table. If you have questions about the Action Level List call the Toxic Hazards Section of the Department of Public Health. If your well is contaminated with a chemical on the Action Level List, you should inform your local health department and CTDEP (860-424-3705).

<b>Connecticut DPH Drinking Water Action Level List</b>	
<b>March, 2004</b>	
Chemical	CT Action Level (ug/l)
arsenic	10
barium	2000
benzene	1
cadmium	5
carbon tetrachloride	5
chlordane	0.3
chromium	100
cyanide	200
1,4-dichlorobenzene	75
1,2-dichloroethane	1
dichloromethane	5
2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid	70
1,2-dichloropropane	5
1,1-dichloroethylene	7
dieldrin	0.03

endrin	2
ethylene dibromide	0.05 <sup>(1)</sup>
isopropanol	2300
lead	15
lindane	0.2
manganese	500
mercury	2
methoxychlor	40
methyl tertiary butyl ether	70
nitrite nitrogen	1000
polychlorinated biphenyls	0.5
selenium	50
Silvex	50
T-butyl alcohol (TBA) and other oxygenates	100 <sup>(3)</sup>
tetrachloroethylene	5
toluene	1000
total petroleum hydrocarbons	** (2)
toxaphene	3
1,1,1-trichloroethane	200
trichloroethylene	5
1,2,3-trichloropropane	0.05
vinyl chloride	2

1) EDB action level for providing bottled water is 0.05 ug/L, the same value as the federal MCL. This MCL is based upon EDB detection limits established in the past. However, the current detection limit is 0.02 ug/L. Detections between 0.02 and 0.05 ug/L should receive follow-up monitoring and can be referred to DPH for site-specific bottled water determination.

2) TPH is a screening level analytical determination that is too non-specific for setting an Action Level. However, detection of TPH at any level is of potential concern and would necessitate further action such as more definitive analytical testing, investigation of sources, and mitigation.

3) This value represents a DPH Comparison Value for determining the need to take action. If the TBA concentration alone, or the sum of all oxygenates in the sample equals 100 ug/L, additional action is recommended (e.g., follow-up monitoring, evaluation of sources and mitigation/treatment options, and possible provision of alternative water supply). List of oxygenates: TBA, MTBE, ethyl-t-butyl ether (ETBE), t-amyl-methyl ether (TAME), diisopropyl ether (DIPE).