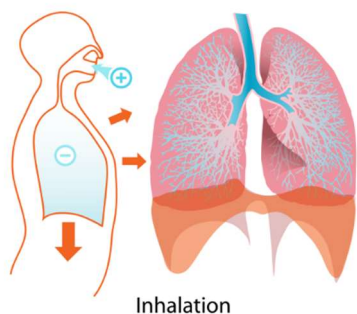


SAFETY TIPS for water potentially contaminated with benzene

Benzene is a regulated chemical with a California State Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) in drinking water of 1 ug/L. Benzene is a colorless highly flammable liquid that evaporates quickly into air and dissolves slightly in water. It is found in crude oil and gasoline, but also occurs naturally in volcanic gases and smoke resulting from forest fires. Benzene is a known carcinogen both in humans and in laboratory animals.

The effects of benzene exposure will vary depending on how long a person has been exposed and the amount of benzene. Benzene's sweet aromatic odor generally provides adequate warning of hazardous concentrations for acute exposure.

Inhalation



The Risks

Benzene easily releases from water to air and may cause drowsiness, confusion, dizziness, headaches, tremors and unconsciousness.

How to Stay Safe

- Prevent water from evaporating in a poorly ventilated area.
- Use cold or lukewarm water for cleaning and laundry.
- Take short lukewarm showers in well – ventilated areas.
- Do not take baths.

Ingestion



The Risks

Longer-term exposure to benzene above the MCL may cause anemia, alterations to the immune system, and leukemia.

How to Stay Safe

- Use bottled water for drinking, cooking, brushing teeth.

Before investing in a water filtering system, you must know exactly what you are filtering and at what levels to have a properly designed system. *Consult a water engineer to design, maintain and continue to test your water & filter system to ensure protection against any present contaminants.*

Learn more about Water Treatment Systems, visit:

tinyurl.com/BenzeneWaterTreatment

There is a lower risk of absorbing benzene through the skin. Children and medically-vulnerable individuals are more vulnerable to toxicants absorbed through the skin. Benzene's sweet aromatic odor generally provides adequate warning of hazardous concentrations for acute exposure. If you are concerned about the effects of using water with even low-levels of benzene, please use bottled or filtered water for washing hands and bathing.

Additional Resources:

- California State Waterboards Groundwater Information Sheet: tinyurl.com/CAWaterboardBenzene
- Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry – Benzene: tinyurl.com/BenzeneFAQ