



Hexavalent chromium

If the level of hexavalent chromium in your water is over **70 ng/L**, you should find a different source of water for drinking and preparing foods that take up a lot of water.*

What is hexavalent chromium?

Hexavalent chromium is a form of the naturally occurring metal, chromium.

- ▶ Hexavalent chromium substances are used to in many industrial purposes including the production of stainless steel, pigments, metal finishing.
- ▶ People can be exposed to hexavalent chromium from water, soil, and air.

Can hexavalent chromium affect our health?

Animal studies have shown that hexavalent chromium can cause health effects.

- ▶ No studies among people have evaluated the effect of drinking or swallowing hexavalent chromium.
- ▶ However, studies in research animals have shown that exposure to high levels of hexavalent chromium can affect the stomach, intestines, and reproduction, and may cause cancer.

What can you do to protect your health?

Wisconsin has a recommended groundwater standard of **70 nanograms per liter (ng/L)** for hexavalent chromium.

If the level of hexavalent chromium in your drinking water is above this, you should find a way to obtain safe water. Options include:

- ▶ Installing a certified treatment device.
- ▶ Drilling a new well.
- ▶ Connecting to a public water system or community well.

*Examples of foods that take up a lot of water include soup, rice, jello, and oatmeal.

Looking for more information?

- ▶ Visit the [DHS website](#) for additional health information.
- ▶ Visit the [DHS website](#) for more information on Wisconsin's groundwater standards.

