



PORT WASHINGTON WATER DISTRICT

38 Sandy Hollow Road • PO Box 432
Port Washington, New York 11050
516.767.0171 • www.pwwd.org

Chlorate and Drinking Water Concerns

Chlorate is an anion that can enter drinking water from several potential sources, including from hypochlorite or chlorine dioxide disinfectant use, ozone oxidation of hypochlorite or chlorite and source water contamination from pesticide runoff or paper mill discharges. Chlorate is used in explosives and also as a pesticide. However, chlorate occurs primarily in drinking water as a result of chlorine products used in treatment.

Much of the information on the health effects of chlorate in humans and animals is recent and new studies are continually becoming available. This chemical has been associated with a variety of potential adverse health effects in humans but it has not been established that chlorate directly cause these effects.

Chlorate is not regulated in drinking water by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). However, the World Health Organization guideline for chlorate is 700 parts per billion (ppb). It should be noted that the occurrence of chlorate in drinking water is being studied to determine if future regulation is needed under the EPA unregulated contaminant monitoring rule (UCMR3).

During 2014 the Port Washington Water District performed testing of chlorate in accordance with UCMR3. Chlorate detections ranged from below detection limits to 160 ppb which is far below the World Health Organization 700 ppb guideline.

All results of our water quality testing are presented to our residents in our annual drinking water quality report and our tap water remains to be of the highest quality possible and safe to drink. For additional information, please visit the EPA's website at www.epa.gov, or contact the Port Washington Water District at 516.767.0171 or at info@pwwd.org.

Date: 12.16.2016

Prepared by: PJG

U:\Community Outreach\Factsheets\PWWD Chlorate Fact Summary.docx