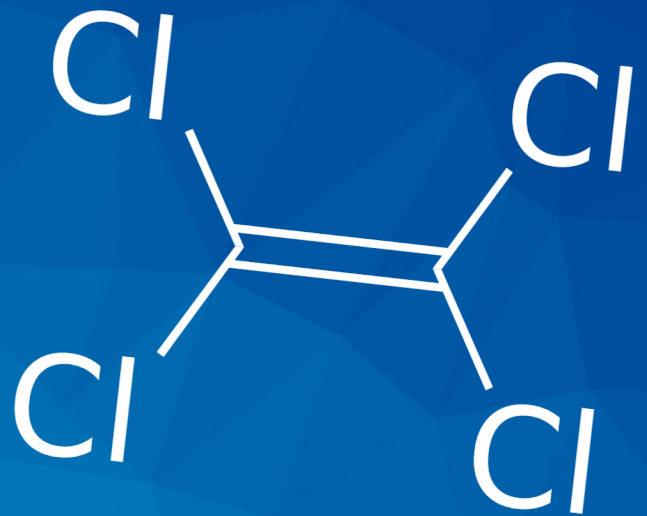


# PCE

## Tetrachloroethylene and your health



Tetrachloroethylene, or PCE, is a colorless liquid with a sweet odor. PCE removes grease from metal parts and is a solvent for dry-cleaning fabrics.

### What happens to PCE in the environment?

PCE may enter the air, water, and soil. PCE evaporates into the air. People are commonly exposed to PCE by breathing air containing its vapors. People are most often exposed to PCE when they use it at work.

If PCE is improperly disposed of or spilled, most of it will evaporate into the air or seep into the soil.

PCE can mix with groundwater and contaminate the water supply, which people may use for drinking water.

Small amounts of PCE can pass through the skin when handling the chemical, by touching contaminated soil, or by bathing in contaminated water.

### How can PCE affect my health?

Whether PCE exposure will affect your health depends on many factors, including how much PCE you are near, how often and for how long. If you have concerns about your health, talk to your health care provider.



***Employers must provide you with the information, training and equipment needed to keep you safe.***

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## How are people exposed to PCE?

People most commonly get exposed to PCE by:

- Breathing air contaminated with PCE
- Drinking water contaminated with PCE
- Breathing or touching PCE while using it at work

## How can I reduce my exposure?

Ask your employer about possible toxic effects of the chemicals you use at work. Employers must provide you with the information, training and equipment needed to keep you safe. It's the law in Texas (Texas Hazard Communication Act, Chapter 502 of the Texas Health and Safety Code).

If you have concerns about PCE in your tap water, contact your local drinking water authorities and follow their advice.

Always follow the directions on product labels.

## Is there a medical test to show if someone has been exposed to PCE?

Blood and urine tests can detect recent exposure to large amounts of PCE. However, these tests do not help doctors determine what health effects might result from the exposure.

Liver and kidney function tests may be helpful in determining damage from PCE exposure.

If you have concerns about your health, talk to your health care provider.

## For more information:

**DSHS Health Assessment and Toxicology Program**

1-888-681-0924

[epitox@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:epitox@dshs.texas.gov)

[dshs.texas.gov/epitox/hat.shtm](http://dshs.texas.gov/epitox/hat.shtm)