

Acknowledgement:

This Fact Sheet is one of a series developed by an Interagency Committee with representatives from Saskatchewan Health, Regional Health Authorities, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, Saskatchewan Environment, Saskatchewan Agriculture, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – PFRA and Health Canada.

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Government of
Saskatchewan

2,4-D

(For Private Water and Health Regulated Public Water Supplies)

What Is 2,4-D?

2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D) is a colorless, odorless powder used as a herbicide for the control of broad-leaf weeds in agriculture, and for control of woody plants along roadsides, railways, and utilities rights of way. It has been most widely used on such crops as wheat and corn, and on pasture and rangelands.

How Does 2,4-D Get Into Water?

Major environmental releases of 2,4-D are due to agricultural applications of systemic herbicides. It is also released as a result of the production or disposal of 2,4-D or its by-products. 2,4-D is readily degraded by microbes in soil and water. Leaching to ground water may occur in certain soils such as coarse-grained sandy soils with low organic content. In general, little runoff occurs with 2,4-D or its byproducts. Large-scale monitoring studies of soils, foods, feedstuffs, wildlife, human beings, and from other environmental cycling studies have shown no bio-contamination of 2,4-D in the food chain.

How Does 2,4-D Affect My Health?

Short-term exposure to 2,4-D may potentially cause nervous system damage when people are exposed to levels above the recommended concentrations. Long-term 2,4-D exposure has the potential to cause damage to the nervous system, kidneys and liver.

How Can I Remove 2,4-D From My Drinking Water?

Granular activated carbon and reverse osmosis may be effective treatment methods for removing 2,4-D from drinking water supplies.

What Is The Standard For 2,4-D In Drinking Water?

Health Canada's Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality has established a maximum acceptable concentration (MAC) of 0.1 mg/L.

How Can I Find Out If There Is 2,4-D In My Water?

Some water quality testing laboratories can determine how much 2,4-D is present in a water supply. Specialized testing equipment is required. For information on sampling instructions and containers, you should contact an accredited laboratory.

Need More Information?

Health Regulated Public Water Supply

For more information on this Fact Sheet and/or other water quality issues relating to Health Regulated Public Water Supplies contact your local Health Region Public Health Inspector.

Private Water Supply

For more information on how 2,4-D impacts on Human Health contact your local Health Region office. For information on how 2,4-D impacts Agricultural Operations contact Saskatchewan Agriculture through your Agricultural Business Centre or the Agricultural Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

<p>Government of Saskatchewan Water Information website www.SaskH2O.ca</p>	<p>Water Inquiry Line Questions about water? Call 1-866-SASK H2O (1-866-727-5420) to be referred to proper agency.</p>
<p>Saskatchewan Ministry of Health http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/environmental-health Regional Health Offices Saskatoon: Saskatoon (306) 655-4605 Sunrise: Yorkton (306) 786-0600 Kelsey Trail: Melfort (306) 752-6310 Five Hills: Moose Jaw (306) 691-1500 Sun Country: Weyburn (306) 842-8618 Heartland: Rosetown (306) 882-6413 Prairie North: North Battleford (306) 446-6400 Prince Albert Parkland: Prince Albert (306) 765-6600 Cypress: Swift Current (306) 778-5280 Regina Qu'Appelle: Regina (306) 766-7777 Mamawetan Churchill River: La Ronge (306) 425-8512 Keewatin Yatthe: Buffalo Narrows (306) 235-5811</p>	<p>Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, Head Office, Moose Jaw (306) 694-3900 Website: www.swa.ca Regional Offices: http://www.swa.ca/AboutUs/Contact.asp?type=Offices</p> <p>Sask Water Corporation Head Office, Moose Jaw Customer Service 1-888-230-1111 Website: http://www.saskwater.com</p> <p>Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Website http://www.agr.gc.ca/pfra/water/intro_e.htm Regional Offices: http://www.agr.gc.ca/pfra/sask_e.htm</p>
<p>Saskatchewan Ministry of Health Saskatchewan Disease Control Laboratory, Regina General Inquiry 1-866-450-0000 Phone: (306) 798-2125 // Fax (306) 798-0071 Website: http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/lab</p>	<p>Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture General Inquiry 1-866-457-2377 Agricultural Operations Regina (306) 787-4680 Irrigation Development Outlook (306) 867-5500 Website: www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca</p>
<p>Health Canada First Nation and Inuit Health Branch, Regina (306) 780-6561 // FAX (306) 780-7733 Website: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca</p>	<p>Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment Toll-Free 1-800-567-4224 or (306) 953-3750 Spill Emergency Toll-Free 1-800-667-7525 Website: http://www.environment.gov.sk.ca</p>