

Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOCs) List

Alachlor	Atrazine	Benzene
Bromodichloromethane	Bromoform	Carbofuran
Carbon Tetrachloride	Chlorobenzene	Chloroform
Chloropicrin	2,4-D	Dibromochloromethane (TTHM)
Dibromochloropropane (DBCP)	o-Dichlorobenzene	p-Dichlorobenzene
1,2-Dichloroethane	1,1-Dichloroethylene	cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene
trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene	1,2-Dichloropropane	cis-1,3-Dichloropropylene
Dinoseb	Endrin	Ethylbenzene
Ethylene Dibromide (EDB)	Haloacetonitriles (HAN): bromochloroacetonitrile dibromoacetonitrile dichloroacetonitrile trichloroacetonitrile	Haloketones (HK): 1,1-dichloro-2-propanone 1,1,1-trichloro-2-propanone
Heptachlor	Heptachlor Epoxide	Hexachlorobutadiene
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	Lindane	Methoxychlor
Pentachlorophenol	Simazine	Styrene
1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane	Tetrachloroethylene	Tribromoacetic acid
Toluene	2,4,5-TP (silvex)	1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene
1,1,1-Trichloroethane	1,1,2-Trichloroethane	Trichloroethylene
Trihalomethanes (surrogate chemical)	Xylenes (total)	

Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOC's) are contaminants that may be found in drinking water supplies across the nation. VOC's are those organic chemicals (pesticides, herbicides, and other chemicals) that are "readily vaporizable at a relatively low temperature" (Webster's Collegiate Dictionary). With no visible characteristics, smell, or taste, VOC's are virtually undetectable in drinking water by the consumer. The only way to know if your water has VOC's is to have it tested or to obtain test results from local public water supplier. VOC's are often toxic and pose intimidating health risks.

Almost every region in the U.S. has VOC's in the water supplies. Urban areas may get VOC's from industrialization, and rural areas may get VOC's from agriculture. Also, 90% of U.S. drinking water is chlorinated (and most likely contains disinfection by-products); thus, VOC's are practically everywhere. In a recent study by the Environmental Working Group, 28 of 29 cities tested were found to have herbicides or pesticides in their tap water.