

# Hicksville Water District

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## Hicksville Water District Protects Residents Against 1, 4-Dioxane

*The Hicksville Water District continues to pursue the implementation of proven treatment technology to treat 1,4-dioxane and ensure Hicksville residents receive water which meets or exceeds ALL federal and state standards. The District is dedicated to easing the burden on taxpayers in every step of this process by holding polluters accountable for necessary treatment costs.*

*The District finds it vital that residents, and Long Islanders in total, understand not only the necessity that water is treated, but that we set similar regulations prohibiting this chemical from entering the water supply in the first place.*

### FACT SHEET

- 1,4-dioxane is a synthetic compound that has been found in groundwater throughout the United States.
- There is currently no regulation for 1,4-dioxane by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) nor the state; however, it is regulated as an Unspecified Organic Contaminant by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) at a maximum contaminant level of 50 parts per billion (ppb).
- In December 2018, the New York State Drinking Water Quality Council Submitted its recommendation to regulate 1,4-dioxane at 1 ppb. This regulation is pending review by the NYS Department of Health.
- In comparison, the EPA's Technology Innovation and Field Services Division set the safe levels for 1,4-dioxane in food products at 10,000 ppb.
- The Hicksville Water District continuously monitors the water quality and provides treatment to remove contaminants when the level approaches the established drinking water standards.
- The Hicksville Water District is in the process of conducting a pilot program regarding the Advanced Oxidation Process treatment system—the only treatment process proven to remove 1, 4-dioxane.
- The Hicksville Water District urges the EPA and NYSDOH to provide action plans for contaminants of concern.

### *1,4-Dioxane in everyday household items*

Safe levels for consumer products such as shampoo, dishwashing soap and other cosmetic products range from 2,000 ppb – 300,000 ppb. Notable measurements for this chemical in household items includes:

- Food products—especially produce treated with pesticides— **up to 10,000 ppb**
- Household products—such as shampoo, dishwashing soap and cosmetic products— range from **2,000ppb – 300,000ppb.**
- Pharmaceuticals—**up to 380,000 ppb.**

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### *What is 1,4-Dioxane?*

1,4-Dioxane is a synthetic industrial chemical that is completely miscible in water. It is used as a solvent or solvent stabilizer. It is also used in many products, including paint strippers, dyes, greases, varnishes and waxes; it is also found as an impurity in antifreeze and aircraft deicing fluids, and in some consumer products (deodorants, shampoos and cosmetics).

### *How does 1,4-Dioxane enter the water supply?*

1,4-dioxane has reached that groundwater primarily because of industrial manufacturing operations on Long Island that used TCA stabilized by 1,4-dioxane from the 1950s to 1990s. Additionally, 1,4-dioxane present in everyday household products—like shampoo, for example—also gets washed down the drain and seeps into the ground and, eventually, Long Island's aquifer.

### *What regulations exist for 1,4-Dioxane?*

There is currently no regulation for 1,4-Dioxane by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) nor the state; however, it is regulated as an Unspecified Organic Contaminant by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) at a maximum contaminant level of 50 parts per billion (ppb). One Hicksville well had a detection of 34 ppb, well below the default standard. This well was immediately taken off line and placed into reserve status for emergency use only.

In December 2018, the New York State Drinking Water Quality Council proposed a recommended drinking water quality MCL for 1,4-dioxane of 1.0 ppb. The Department of Health is presently reviewing the recommendation and preparing draft standards for the regulation of 1,4-dioxane. The Commissioner of Health may propose a higher or lower MCL based on additional review of health impact data. Implementation of a standard could occur as early as 2020.

### *Will the EPA set a standard for 1,4-Dioxane?*

The EPA regularly reviews drinking water standards as new science becomes available and is currently reviewing new 1,4-dioxane health effects information. Once the review is complete, the EPA will carefully review the conclusions and consider all relevant information to determine whether a drinking water standard for 1,4-dioxane is needed. The Hicksville Water District is working with the EPA to help support the decision-making process.

### *Should I be drinking bottled water?*

Bottled water is regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and is required to meet standards equal to the EPA's tap water standards. As the EPA does not have a standard for 1,4-Dioxane, regulations have not been developed for bottled water manufacturers. Your tap water remains as one of the most highly regulated and safe resources available.