

# Cyanide (free)

Status: No national drinking water standard exists

Cyanide is a toxic chemical that causes central nervous system and thyroid toxicity. Water contamination is generally the result of metal mining and chemical industry waste, runoff from agriculture and road salts used for melting ice.

2015-2017:

FOUND

FOUND ABOVE HEALTH GUIDELINES

**2**

states detected

**47**

utilities detected

**2.4 million**

people served

## Health concerns for cyanide (free)

Harm to the brain and nervous system

---

Harm to the thyroid

---

Harm to the central nervous system

---

## State and national drinking water standards and health guidelines

## EWG Health Guideline

150 ppb

The EWG Health Guideline of 150 ppb for cyanide (free) was defined by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment as a public health goal, the level of a drinking water contaminant that does not pose a significant health risk. This health guideline protects against harm to the brain and nervous system.

ppb = parts per billion

## States reporting cyanide (free) in drinking water

## UTILITIES WITH CONTAMINATION

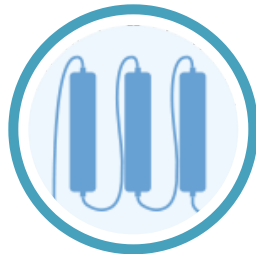
State	Utilities	People Served
Pennsylvania	46	2,302,834
Massachusetts	1	51,836

MORE

## Filtering technologies that reduce cyanide (free)



Reverse  
Osmosis



Ion Exchange

## Utilities with the highest amounts of cyanide (free), 2015-2017

EWG's Guide to Safe Drinking Water

ALL UTILITIES

LARGE UTILITIES

Utility	Location	Tests	Average level	People served
Hillview Estates	Greensburg, PA	1 of 1	10.00 ppb	50
Peabody Water Department (MWRA)	Peabody, MA	7 of 18	8.48 ppb	51,836
Country Crest Mobile Home Park	Dillsburg, PA	1 of 1	8.00 ppb	150
Conneautville Borough Water Department	Conneautville, PA	1 of 1	8.00 ppb	1,040
Reserve Township Water Department	Pittsburgh, PA	1 of 6	7.50 ppb	3,683
Fox Chapel Authority*	Pittsburgh, PA	1 of 6	7.50 ppb	18,500
Pittsburgh Water & Sewer Authority*	Pittsburgh, PA	1 of 6	7.50 ppb	225,000
Moon Twp Municipal Authority*	Coraopolis, PA	2 of 3	6.33 ppb	38,000
Mitchell Lake Mobile Home Park	Cambridge Springs, PA	1 of 1	6.00 ppb	100
Philadelphia Water Department*	Philadelphia, PA	3 of 12	6.00 ppb	1,600,000

\* This water utility supplies finished drinking water to at least one other water utility. The purchasing utility is not required to test for or report Cyanide (free), but it likely has the contaminant in its water supply.

