

Oregon Department of Human Services

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TECHNICAL BULLETIN

HEALTH EFFECTS INFORMATION

Prepared by:
Department of Human Services
ENVIRONMENTAL TOXICOLOGY SECTION
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DACTHAL

For More Information Contact:

**Environmental Toxicology Section
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**Drinking Water Section
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DACTHAL

Dacthal is a pre-emergence herbicide used to prevent the sprouting of seeds of annual grasses in turf and lawns, as well as in some vegetable crops including onions and beans. It has been used since the 1960's. Dacthal is a man-made organic chemical and does not occur naturally.

OCCURRENCE AND SOURCE OF DACTHAL IN WATER SUPPLIES

Dacthal has been found at generally low levels in both surface and groundwater in various parts of the country. Based on the USEPA 1988 Interim Report, Pesticides in Ground Water Data Base, Dacthal has been detected in groundwater samples from wells in Massachusetts, New York, Oregon and Wisconsin at levels ranging from 0.46 - 254.6 micrograms per liter (ug/L). Dacthal breaks down slowly in soil and water. It is not very mobile in soil, however, its breakdown products can move rapidly through the soil to the groundwater.

HEALTH EFFECTS OF DRINKING DACTHAL CONTAMINATED WATER

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has reviewed the available health studies on Dacthal. These studies are based on Dacthal alone, and not on the breakdown products or impurities.

Based on these studies, the USEPA believes that no adverse health effects in humans are likely to result from drinking water with 4000 ug/l or less of Dacthal. Dacthal itself has not been shown to present a cancer risk, but it contains low levels of other chemicals that may pose cancer risk in water systems having more than 4.0 mg/L of Dacthal.

REMOVING DACTHAL FROM DRINKING WATER

Persons whose water supplies exceed 4000 ug/L Dacthal, or those who do not wish to consume even smaller amounts of Dacthal, can take several actions for short-

term protection, including using bottled water, properly constructing a deeper well, or installing an in-home treatment device to treat water for drinking and cooking purposes. For additional information on selecting the appropriate equipment, please contact the Drinking Water Section of the Oregon Health Division at 971-673-0405.