

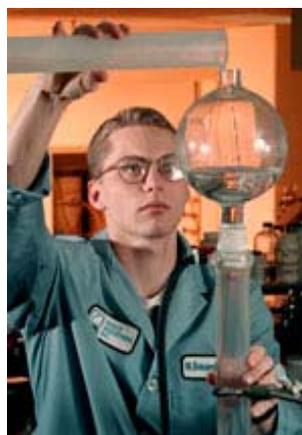
WHAT IS TRICHLOROETHYLENE?

- Trichloroethylene (TCE) is a man made substance.
- Although trichloroethylene has many uses, the Department of Defense uses it mostly as an industrial cleaner to remove grease from metal parts.
- The use of trichloroethylene by the Department of Defense has been greatly reduced.

Properties and Uses of Trichloroethylene

Properties

- Colorless liquid
- Sweet odor
- Does not burn easily
- Evaporates quickly



Uses

- Industrial Cleaner
- Dry-cleaning agent
- Chemical manufacturing
- Solvent in paint and glue

DISTRIBUTION IN THE ENVIRONMENT

HISTORY

- Trichloroethylene was first produced in the US in 1925
- Trichloroethylene was originally used as an anesthetic for surgery prior to 1977
- Trichloroethylene's main use has been as an industrial cleaner

HOW TRICHLOROETHYLENE GETS IN THE ENVIRONMENT

- *Released into the air*
- *Spills onto soil*
- *Disposal in old landfills*

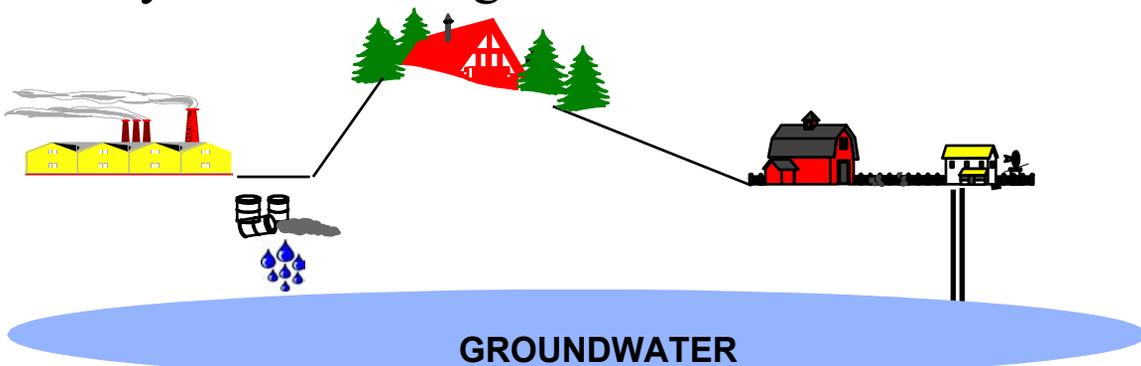


TRICHLOROETHYLENE IN THE ENVIRONMENT

Half of the trichloroethylene released into the air is removed in about a week

Trichloroethylene passes through the soil into underground water

Trichloroethylene in underground water breaks down slowly



EXPOSED POPULATIONS

HOW ARE PEOPLE EXPOSED TO TRICHLOROETHYLENE?

Breathing air in workplaces where trichloroethylene is used/made
Drinking underground water containing trichloroethylene
Low levels in some consumer products



TRICHLOROETHYLENE IN THE BODY

Trichloroethylene enters the body when you breathe air or drink water containing it
Trichloroethylene can also enter the body through your skin
Most of the trichloroethylene that enters the body is removed in urine within a day

KNOWN HEALTH EFFECTS

- Trichloroethylene mostly affects the central nervous system (brain)
- Exposure to large amounts of trichloroethylene results in headaches, dizziness, or sleepiness in humans
- Exposure to high doses of trichloroethylene causes liver and kidney damage in laboratory animals

