

Proposed Groundwater Standards

Wis. Admin. Code NR 140
Cycle 11



Hexazinone

How is it used in Wisconsin?

Hexazinone is a systemic herbicide used mostly in non-crop areas including forestry and Christmas trees, against annual, biennial, and perennial weeds. It was first registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1975.

What are some products that contain this substance?

Hexazinone is registered in Wisconsin for use in nine products. Some common agricultural products include Oustar, Westar, Velpar, and Tide.

Who manufactures this substance?

DuPont de Nemours Inc. was the original manufacturer of hexazinone. Current manufacturers include Bayer, Tessenderlo Kerley Inc., and Tide International.

Why has this substance been recommended for establishment of groundwater standards?

There is currently no standard for hexazinone in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has tested for it since 2015. As of November 2021 hexazinone was detected in:

- 17 of 1,472 private well samples, and
- 0 of 667 field edge monitoring well samples. *

A standard will help homeowners and state agencies make decisions about future water use and potential public health concerns.

What are the proposed standards?

- Enforcement standard: 400 µg/L (micrograms per liter)
- Preventive action limit standard: 40 µg/L

Has this substance been detected above the proposed groundwater standards?

No. Since 2015 it has not been detected above the proposed enforcement standard or preventive action limit in any samples collected by DATCP. The highest concentration of hexazinone detected in a private well sample by DATCP was 1.62 µg/L. It was not detected in any of the 667 monitoring well samples collected by DATCP.

Where can I find more information?

- Health-based standards:
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/water/gws.htm>
- NR 140 rule process:
<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Groundwater/NR140.html>

Who do I contact for questions?

DATCP Groundwater Specialist
(608) 224-4503
datcpgw@wisconsin.gov

**DATCP has no monitoring wells located in forestry and tree farm locations where products containing hexazinone may be used.*

This fact sheet provides general information for this pesticide ingredient. A groundwater quality standard has been proposed for this substance in accordance with state law (Wis. Stat. § 160).

