

Visited 05/19/2020

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS AND TOXIC CHEMICALS WHERE YOU LIVE, WORK, AND PLAY



☰ Menu

[Home](#) > [Chemicals & Contaminants](#) > Perchloroethylene (PCE, PERC)

Perchloroethylene (PCE, PERC)

Visited 05/19/2020

What is Perchloroethylene (PCE, PERC)?

Perchloroethylene is a colorless liquid that is also called tetrachloroethylene, PERC, or PCE. It is primarily used for degreasing metals.

See also: [Factories](#) [Dry Cleaning](#) [Brownfield](#) [Birth Defects](#) [Cancer](#) [Learning and Developmental Disabilities](#) [Re](#)

Where is Perchloroethylene (PCE, PERC) found?

- Dry-cleaned clothes – releasing small amounts of perchloroethylene
- Consumer products - adhesives, spot removers, typewriter correction fluid, shoe polish, printing inks, and floor cleaners
- Fabric finishers

How can I be exposed to Perchloroethylene (PCE, PERC)?

Perchloroethylene (PCE, PERC) commonly enter(s) the body through:



Ingestion (swallowing)

- [Drinking water](#) contaminated with perchloroethylene

Inhalation (breathing)

- Breathing releases from dry-cleaned clothes, or products that contain perchloroethylene

Skin contact

- Touching dry-cleaned clothes, products made with perchloroethylene
- Bathing in water contaminated with perchloroethylene

What happens when I am exposed to Perchloroethylene (PCE, PERC)?

Short-term:

Breathing high levels of perchloroethylene for a short time can cause:

- Dizziness

Visited 05/19/2020

[U.S. National Library of Medicine](#)

8600 Rockville Pike Bethesda, MD 20894

1-888-FIND-NLM

[National Institutes of Health](#)

[Department of Health & Human Services](#)

[About](#) | [E-mail Updates](#) | [Contact Us: \[tehip@tehip.nlm.nih.gov\]\(mailto:tehip@tehip.nlm.nih.gov\)](#)

[Copyright](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Freedom of Information Act](#) | [Accessibil](#)

[Viewers and Players](#)

[Connect with NLM](#)

Reviewed October 2019

Published May 31, 2017