



## DACTHAL

### What is DACTHAL?

Dacthal is an active ingredient in herbicides, which are used to control weeds and plants. Dacthal is another name for dimethyl tetrachloroterephthalate. It is also known as DCPA, or chlorthal-dimethyl.

### Where can dacthal be found and how is it used?

Herbicides that contain dacthal are used to control crabgrass, other annual grasses, and certain broad-leaved weeds. Common places where dacthal is applied are turf, home flower gardens, nursery stock, and fruit and vegetable crops.

### How can people be exposed to dacthal?

*You could be exposed to dacthal through:*

**Drinking** water containing dacthal. This could happen if well water supplies were in contact with dacthal.

**Touching** dacthal when using an herbicide on the lawn or garden.

**Eye Contact** by touching the eyes with hands that have been in contact with dacthal.

### How does dacthal work and how can it affect my health?

While dacthal is thought to have few health effects, its dioxin ingredients can have harmful health effects. 2,3,7,8-TCDD is the most harmful of these dioxins. Harmful effects of dacthal exposure include cancer, birth defects, problems with the thymus gland, and liver damage. Other effects include problems with the immune system, reproductive failure, skin damage, and weight loss. Many of these effects occur after exposure to very small amounts of 2,3,7,8-TCDD.

### How is dacthal poisoning treated?

There is no treatment for dacthal poisoning. A doctor will treat the symptoms.

### What should I do if exposed to dacthal?

**If you breathe dacthal**, get fresh air. Get medical help if needed.

**If you touch dacthal**, wash or shower right away. Get medical help if needed.

**If dacthal gets in your eyes**, wash your eyes right away with clean water. Wash for at least 15 minutes. Get medical help if needed.

### What factors limit use or exposure to dacthal?

If you use dacthal in your yard or garden, protect your skin. Follow all package directions on any product containing dacthal. If you have a drinking water well, it can be sampled to see if dacthal is in your water.

### Is there a medical test to show whether I've been exposed to dacthal?

There are no tests to show exposure to dacthal.



## Technical information for dacthal

CAS Number: 1861-32-1

Chemical Formula: C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>6</sub>CL<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub>

Carcinogenicity (EPA): Not Classified

MCL (Drinking Water): There is no MCL for dacthal.

OSHA Standards: There are no OSHA standards for dacthal.

NIOSH Standards: There are no NIOSH standards for dacthal.

## References and Sources

American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH). 2003. *Guide to Occupational Exposure Values*. Cincinnati, OH.

NIOSH Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards. 2003. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

DCPA; *Notice of Filing a Pesticide Petition to Establish a Tolerance for a Certain Pesticide Chemical in or on Food*. Federal Register. Vol. 69, No. 88. Thursday, May 6, 2004. Notices.

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) Health Consultation, Dacthal Groundwater Contamination, [http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HAC/PHA/dacthal/dac\\_p1.html#back](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HAC/PHA/dacthal/dac_p1.html#back) (Accessed 10/6/09)

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