

Cesium

Cesium (see-zee-uhm)

Tested in: Urine and Water

Reported in: Water Only

Learn how you can protect yourself and your family.



Is there an unsafe level of cesium in water?

Scientists have not determined if there are levels of cesium that could be considered unsafe in water. If you are concerned about your test results, continue to the next section to learn how you might reduce cesium in your water.



Is it possible to remove cesium from drinking water?

Yes, you may be able to reduce the amount of chemicals in your water. First, it is important to find out how chemicals may be getting into your water. We recommend that you contact your county's environmental health department or a well specialist. They may want to test your water for bacteria or nitrate or look at your well for any damage. Testing for bacteria or nitrate may be available for free through your county.

You may also be able to install an in-home treatment system to reduce chemicals in the water you drink. Not all treatment systems remove all chemicals. Talk to a water treatment specialist to determine the best options for the chemical(s) that may have been found in your water tests.



Will exposure to cesium harm my health?

Exposure to cesium may harm the development of organs.



Are there other ways I could limit my exposure to cesium?

- Follow all safety precautions if you work with cesium.
- Cesium is sometimes found in foods, so include variety in your diet.

What is cesium?

Cesium is an element found in rocks, soil, clay, and dust. Most human exposure to cesium occurs through the diet. Cesium is used to make products such as photomultipliers and vacuum tubes, scintillation counters, infrared lamps, semiconductors, photographic emulsions, and high-power gas-ion devices, and as polymerization catalysts.

Where can I find more information?

- https://www.cdc.gov/biomonitoring/Cesium_BiomonitoringSummary.html
- <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/az/c.html>