

## Thallium

*Thallium (thal-ee-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 thallium in water?

The EPA says that there is too much thallium when levels are higher than 0.002 mg/L. Check your laboratory test report to see your personalized results.



#### Is it possible to remove thallium 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 thallium harm my health?

Exposure to thallium may harm your

- cardiovascular system
- hepatic system (liver)
- nervous system
- renal system (urinary system or kidneys)
- respiratory system



#### Are there other ways I could limit my exposure to thallium?

- Follow all safety precautions if you work with thallium.

#### What is thallium?

Thallium is a metal found in rocks and soil. It is used to make some medicines and electronic components. It has not been mined in the U.S. since 1984.

People may be exposed to thallium by eating foods or drinking water contaminated with thallium, working in or living by industries that use thallium, and smoking cigarettes. Groundwater (the underground water that private wells tap into) might be contaminated by thallium if it is near any hazardous waste sites that have thallium.

#### Where can I find more information?

- [https://www.cdc.gov/biomonitoring/Thallium\\_BiomonitoringSummary.html](https://www.cdc.gov/biomonitoring/Thallium_BiomonitoringSummary.html)
- <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/az/t.html>