

Petroleum Hydrocarbons in Water: Health Effects



What happens if I swallow water with petroleum?

Drinking water containing petroleum hydrocarbons can cause an upset stomach, stomach cramping, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. Your throat and mouth may also get irritated.



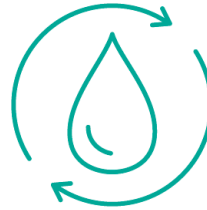
What happens if water with petroleum gets on my skin?

Petroleum hydrocarbons can irritate the skin (dermal exposure). Continuous exposure can cause itchy rash with red and peeling skin. After skin contact, always wash with soap and clean water.



What happens if I breathe air that smells like petroleum?

Breathing petroleum vapors (also called inhalational exposure) can cause headaches, dizziness, tiredness and respiratory problems like cough and difficulty breathing. Nosebleeds are possible.



How can this affect my future health?

Evaluation of the possibility of long-term health effects is ongoing. Based on current information, people exposed to contaminated drinking water from the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Drinking Water System in this incident are not expected to experience long-term health effects.

What should I do if I have symptoms after exposure to contaminated water?

- If there is a strong petroleum smell, **leave the area and get fresh air.**
- If you develop respiratory problems or other severe symptoms, **seek urgent medical evaluation.**
- **Contact your primary care doctor** for an appointment.
- **Avoid exposure to the water.** Do not drink or use the water for cooking or brushing teeth. Do not bathe in the water. If skin contact, always wash with soap and clean water
- **Call the Hawaii Poison Center (800) 222-1222 for questions.**



- **Primary Care Doctor**
- **Hawaii Poison Center (800) 222-1222**

For more information, visit health.hawaii.gov/NavyWater