

HELPFUL INFORMATION

Dieldrin in Private Drinking Water Wells DeLand County Club Estates

What is dieldrin?

Dieldrin is a synthetic chemical used to kill insects. From the 1950s until 1970, dieldrin was widely used on corn and cotton. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) banned all uses of dieldrin in 1974 except to control termites. In 1987, EPA banned all uses.

Is it safe to drink water from my well?

The Florida health advisory level for dieldrin in drinking water is 0.002 micrograms per liter or parts per billion (ug/L). Because this advisory includes a large safety factor, use of water with levels slightly above the advisory for a few months is not likely to cause harm. For long-term use, however, drinking water should meet this advisory.

Is it safe for my pets to drink water from my well?

Water that is safe for humans is generally safe for pets. Use of water with levels slightly above the advisory for a few months is not likely to harm to pets. For more information, consult your veterinarian.

Is it safe to shower with water from my well or use it to wash clothes and dishes?

Because dieldrin is not volatile, there is little risk from breathing vapors during showering. Although dieldrin can be absorbed through the skin when showering and washing clothes/dishes, the amount is small compared to drinking the water.

Is it safe to use water from my well for landscape irrigation?

Dieldrin is not volatile so there is little health risk from breathing vapors during irrigation of landscape. Although dieldrin can be absorbed through the skin, the amount of exposure during irrigation of landscape is very low. Water used for irrigation, no matter what the source including reclaimed water, should not be used for drinking since it may exceed safe drinking water levels.

Is it safe to eat fruits and vegetables irrigated with water from my well?

It is always advisable to wash fruit and vegetables very well before eating them no matter what the source of irrigation water might be. At the levels of dieldrin found in some of the wells in the Deland Country Club Estates area, the increased risk from eating fruits and vegetables irrigated with well water is low, and may be as low as zero.

Is it safe to play at recreational areas like golf courses when those areas are irrigated with reclaimed water?

There is little health risk from playing at areas like golf courses if basic principles of hygiene are followed especially washing your hands after playing and before eating or drinking.

Is it safe for children to play in soil irrigated with water from my well?

Levels of dieldrin in the soil from irrigation are not likely to cause harm.

How many wells will be tested in the area?

Florida Department of Health uses a general Well Surveillance sampling protocol to delineate the extent of private wells found to have dieldrin.

Who can I contact for more information about the Well Surveillance Program?

The Volusia County Health Department Environmental Health Office at 386-822-6240

www.volusiahealth.com/dieldrin



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Questions about reclaimed water

Reclaimed water is highly treated wastewater suitable for irrigation of lawns and landscapes but it is not meant to be used for potable water purposes.

- Do not drink reclaimed water.
- Do not bathe with reclaimed water or use it to fill swimming pools or hot tubs or portable 'kiddie' pools or other water recreational water activity toys.
- Do not play in the sprinklers when reclaimed water is used as irrigation water.
- Do not use reclaimed water to irrigate edible crops unless the food is washed with potable water and peeled and/or cooked.
- If you come in contact with reclaimed water use basic hygiene like washing your hands before eating or drinking.

Is it safe to use reclaimed water for landscape irrigation?

Dieldrin is not volatile so there is little health risk from breathing vapors during irrigation of landscape. Although dieldrin can be absorbed through the skin, the amount of exposure during irrigation of landscape is very low. Water used for irrigation should not be used for drinking since it may exceed safe levels.

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