



## Chromium-6 (Cr6+) Information (FAQ)

### Myoma Dunes Mutual Water Company (MDMWC)

#### What is Chromium-6 (Cr6+)?

Chromium is a naturally occurring metal found in local rocks and sediments. There are two main types found in groundwater:

- **Chromium-3 (Trivalent chromium):** Naturally occurring, nontoxic, and an essential nutrient.
- **Chromium-6 (Hexavalent chromium):** Can form naturally as chromium-3 in rocks and soils undergoes weathering. Long-term exposure may lead to potential health concerns.

#### Is My Tap Water Safe to Drink?

**Yes.** Your tap water is still safe to use for drinking, cooking, and all daily needs. California's Cr6+ regulation is based on potential health impacts from very long-term exposure (over 70 years), not immediate or short-term health risks.

#### Regulatory Standards:

- Federal limit (total chromium): **100 ppb**
- California limit (total chromium): **50 ppb**
- California's Cr6+ limit: **10 ppb** (the only Cr6+ standard in the U.S.)

#### What Changed?

California has adopted its Cr6+ regulation after several years of review.

- **2014 – First Cr6+ Standard:**  
California adopted the nation's first Cr6+ drinking water standard at **10 ppb MCL**, below the existing total chromium limit.
- **2017 – Standard Overturned:**  
The Court invalidated the rule, finding the State's economic analysis insufficient to show that the standard was financially feasible for water systems.
- **April 17, 2024 – Standard Re-Adopted:**  
After completing a more detailed cost analysis and public review, the State re-adopted the Cr6+ MCL at **10 ppb**.
- **October 1, 2024 – New Standard Took Effect:**  
The Cr6+ MCL is now enforceable, requiring quarterly monitoring, public notification of exceedances, and development of treatment plans to meet the 10 ppb limit.

#### Why Did I Receive This Notice?

State law requires MDMWC to notify customers when the **annual average of quarterly samples exceeds 10 ppb** of Cr6+.

Quarterly notices must continue until all affected sources meet the standard.

## How Much Chromium-6 Is in Our Water?

Recent sample results show:

- **Average chromium-6 level: 12.8 ppb**
- **Range: 11-15 ppb**
- **State limit: 10 ppb**

California's MCL is the nation's only drinking water standard for Cr6+.

Recent testing shows that all MDMWC wells currently exceed the regulatory limit due to naturally occurring Cr6+ in the Coachella Valley aquifer.

## What Is MDMWC Doing About It?

MDMWC is committed to providing safe, reliable drinking water. We are developing a **Compliance Plan and treatment timeline** to submit to the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water.

To meet the new standard, **all wells will require treatment** to reduce Cr6+ levels.

## How Much Will This Cost?

Projected compliance cost: **\$10-\$15 million**. These costs will significantly impact water rates once treatment systems are installed.

## Are Other Water Agencies Affected?

Yes. The Cr6+ regulation affects **129 water systems statewide**, requiring billions of dollars in treatment upgrades.

The rule is currently being challenged in court for concerns regarding:

- Economic impacts
- Consideration of alternatives
- Effects on California's **Human Right to Water Policy**

## Questions?

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