1,4-Dioxane Pollution

HOW IT CAN BE STOPPED SO POLLUTERS PAY, NOT PEOPLE

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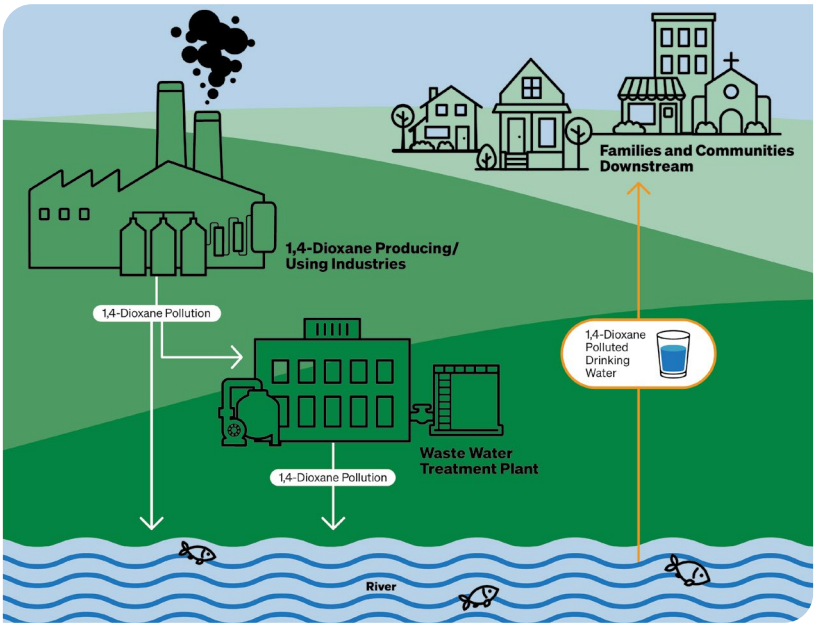
What is 1,4-dioxane?

1,4-Dioxane is a clear, industrial chemical that is toxic to people and often created as waste from industrial manufacturing.

How does 1,4-dioxane pollution happen?

Some industries release 1,4-dioxane into our rivers, creeks, and streams and others send their waste to city wastewater plants. Because industry and wastewater treatment plants do not remove 1,4-dioxane from their wastewater, the toxic chemical flows downstream into our drinking water supplies.



1,4-Dioxane is not removed by conventional drinking water treatment. Once released by industries and wastewater treatment plants, 1,4-dioxane can and will contaminate drinking water supplies and groundwater.

What are the health harms from 1,4-dioxane pollution?

1,4-Dioxane has been linked to multiple forms of cancer and causes liver and kidney damage to people at very low levels. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency established a drinking water health advisory with an associated one-in-one million cancer risk of 0.35 parts per billion (ppb).

How can toxic 1,4-dioxane pollution be stopped?

- Technologies exist to remove 1,4-dioxane from industrial wastewater. If industries use these technologies, the pollution would be stopped before it reaches drinking water.
- State permitting agencies and wastewater treatment plants have the legal responsibility to ensure industries are properly controlling their pollution at the source.
- We know this process works. The Southern Environmental Law Center has succeeded in getting industries to stop sending toxic waste to city wastewater plants. When polluters are held accountable, they can stop their 1,4-dioxane pollution from harming communities downstream.

Who pays — people or polluters?

Stopping 1,4-dioxane at the source makes sure that polluters pay for their own pollution rather than families and drinking water utilities nearby and downstream.

How can we take action?

- Speak out. Tell decisionmakers to enforce the law against polluters to keep our communities safe.
- Spread the word. Let your community know.
- Be aware of home filtration options. North Carolina State University's findings about home filtration and 1,4-dioxane are available here: https://tinyurl.com/25nb2p3c

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