



GUAM ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • AHENSIAN PRUTEKSIÓN LINA'LA' GUÅHAN
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Dieldrin: Frequently Asked Questions – October 8, 2025

DR FAQ-001

To address public concerns and questions about the pesticide dieldrin, the Guam Environmental Protection Agency (GEPA) is releasing this Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) sheet. This FAQ will be updated as new information becomes available. For specific inquiries regarding your home, water delivery, or the reimbursement program, contact the Guam Waterworks Authority (GWA) Hotline at 671-647-7800 or 7803. For bottled water distribution information, contact the Yigo Mayor's Office at 671-653-5248

1. Is my home affected by the dieldrin contamination?

Answer: Please contact the Guam Waterworks Authority (GWA) hotline at 671-647-7800 or 7803 between 7 am and 9 pm. They can confirm if your home is within the affected area.

2. Can I shower and wash dishes with the contaminated water?

Answer:

- **Showering:** Showering is allowed, but please keep showers brief and use cool or lukewarm water to minimize exposure.
- **Washing Dishes:** Yes, you can safely wash your dishes.

3. Is only this well in Yigo affected?

Answer: Yes, only the Y-15 well currently exceeds the interim action level for dieldrin.

4. What do you recommend for water filters for my home?

Answer: When purchasing a water filter, also called a “Point of Use (POU) device,” please look for the following:

- **NSF Certification:** Ensure the device is certified by the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) to meet the **NSF-53** or **NSF-401** standards. This certification should be on the product box and in the manufacturer’s instructions.
- **Filter Type:** The device should include granular activated carbon and/or a reverse osmosis (RO) treatment process.
- **Label Information:** The label may not specifically say “dieldrin.” Instead, it will likely indicate that it reduces pesticides, PFAS, VOCs, or other chemicals.



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- **Important:** A filter with an **NSF-42** label only reduces odor, taste, and chlorine and **DOES NOT** remove chemicals.
- **Maintenance:** Remember to replace the filter according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

5. Will I be reimbursed if I purchase a Point of Use (POU) device for my home?

Answer: Please contact the Guam Waterworks Authority (GWA) hotline at 671-647-7800 to learn more. You must save your receipts and ensure the water filter meets the NSF-53 or NSF-401 standards.

6. Can I get my water tested for dieldrin?

Answer: Individual home testing is expected to show the same results as tests conducted at the public water supply's entry point. All chemicals, including dieldrin, are sampled and monitored to ensure compliance with drinking water regulations.

7. How did the well get contaminated?

Answer: Although the exact contamination source is unknown, historical agricultural spraying and termite treatments, combined with persistent heavy rains, probably washed the chemical into the ground and then into the wells water supply. Further, construction activities may have disturbed contaminated soil, releasing more dieldrin into the groundwater. GEPA is now working with the Guam Department of Agriculture (DOAG) to test for and address the illegal use of such pesticides.

8. Are farm lands being tested for the use of dieldrin or other illegal pesticides?

Answer: We are working closely with the Department of Agriculture on a plan to conduct inspections and testing. We will keep the public informed as more information becomes available.

9. Can I eat crops grown from the affected area?

Answer: Current evidence shows dieldrin can be drawn out of the soil into plants and their fruits, however, there is not enough information at this time to be able to evaluate the full risk of eating these crops. Guam EPA continues to partner with the Department of Agriculture and other federal agencies to develop a study to properly evaluate the risk. We will keep the public informed as more information becomes available.

10. When can we expect GWA to install Point of Entry devices to our homes?

Answer: Please contact the GWA hotline at 671-647-7800 or 7803 for information on their plans for a Point of Entry system.



11. Is the Mangilao well M4 also contaminated?

Answer: The M4 well's dieldrin level is below the interim action level, indicating it is safe for use.

12. Is the Dededo well D17 contaminated?

Answer: While well D17's dieldrin levels are above the interim action level, it poses no immediate risk as it is offline and not distributing water. For additional information, please contact the GWA hotline at 671-647-7800 or 7803.

13. Can I get water delivered to my home?

Answer: Please contact the Yigo Mayor's office at (671) 653-5248 to learn more.

14. I heard bottled water will be distributed to Yigo residents who are within the affected area?

Answer: Please contact the Yigo Mayor's office at (671) 653-5248 to learn more.

15. Are there other locations for me to get safe drinking water?

Answer: According to GWA, a water tanker has been positioned at the following locations:

- GWA's Y-15 well site
- The entrance adjacent to Gill Breeze.

GWA is also providing a spigot the following locations:

- Yigo Mayor's Office
- Yigo Gym
- GWA pump station along route 1 by Chalan Arendo.

Water is available from GWA water tankers and additional temporary taps they have set up.

16. Can I use a Rainwater Catchment System at my home?

Answer: While rainwater catchment is a beneficial resource for non-potable uses, consuming it, such as drinking or cooking, without proper treatment can pose significant health risks due to bacteria, viruses, and parasites. GEPA reminds the public that homeowners are solely responsible for the maintenance and safety of their Rainwater Catchment Systems, they are not regulated by GEPA.

For those who choose to use a Rainwater Catchment System, please see the following guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/drinking-water/about/collecting-rainwater-and-your-health-an-overview.html>.



17. When can we expect the water to be safe to drink?

Answer: The GEPA is working closely with the GWA on interim and permanent solutions. If you would like to learn more about the latest updates, you can contact the GWA hotline at 671-647-7800 or 7803.

18. Which well serves my home?

Answer: GEPA does not have this information. To find out which well serves your home, please contact the GWA hotline at 671-647-7800 or 7803.

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