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Chlorine and Cancer

THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

- *The National Cancer Institute estimates cancer risks for people who consume chlorinated water to be 93% higher than for people who do not.*

Chlorine was first added to a community water system in 1908 in Chicago, and was instrumental in eliminating many types of water-borne disease such as Cholera and Typhoid fever. Chlorine has had positive effects on public health since its introduction over 80 years ago, however most experts now agree that there are significant risks related to exposure to chlorine and consuming chlorine and chlorinated by-products.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

- *Lifetime consumption of chlorinated tap water can more than double the risk of bladder and rectal cancers.*

Chlorine is a potent irritant to the eyes, the upper respiratory tract, and lungs. Laboratory studies show that repeat exposure to chlorine in air can adversely affect the immune system, the blood, and the heart.

During the mid-1970's monitoring efforts began to identify widespread toxic contamination of the nation's drinking water supplies, and epidemiological studies began to suggest a link between ingestion of toxic chemicals in the water and elevated cancer mortality risks. Since those studies were completed a variety of additional studies have strengthened the statistical connection between consumption of toxins in water and elevated cancer risks.

THE NADER REPORT - TROUBLED WATERS ON TAP

Center For Study of Responsive Law

- *Exposure to vaporized chemicals in the water supplies through showering, bathing, and inhalation is 100 times greater than through drinking water.*

The National Academy of Science states that hundreds of people die in the United States each year from cancers caused by *ingesting* the contaminants in the water. The health threat posed by these toxins is likely to be far *worse* from their *inhalation* as air pollutants. The reason that shower emissions are high is because water droplets dispersed by the shower head have a larger surface-to-volume ratio for evaporation than water streaming into the bath.