

1080 AND WATER

THE FACTS

- 1080 is **highly soluble in water and dilutes quickly***
 - Laboratory analysis can detect 1080 in water at concentrations **as low as 0.1 parts per billion (ppb)***
 - Research by NIWA showed that 1080 deliberately placed in small streams for testing was **undetectable after only 8 hours***
- The maximum amount of 1080 residue allowed in drinking water by the Ministry of Health's is 2.0 ppb. This has **never been breached**.*
- As an indication of how stringent this regulation is, at the 2.0ppb level a 60 kg person would need to drink: **60,000 litres of water** for a lethal dose of 1080.*
- Water is **routinely monitored** after aerial application of 1080 in New Zealand and water samples are collected immediately after application when there is the **highest possibility of detecting contamination**.*
- Of **2442 water samples tested** by Landcare Research between 1990 and May 2010
 - 96.5% had **no detectable 1080**
 - Of all the samples taken over 20 years only 6 were equal to, or above the Ministry of Health level for drinking water and **none of these came from drinking water supplies**.*
- Of 592 samples taken from human or stock drinking supplies, only four contained detectable 1080 residues at 0.1ppb (1 sample) and 0.2 ppb (3 samples) - **all well below the Ministry of Health level of 2 ppb**.*
- Trials show that any aquatic and land plants that uptake 1080 **rapidly metabolised it** within a week.*
- Trials in four West Coast streams using 10 times the number of 1080 baits that would be expected to enter streams during aerial treatment showed **no detectable effect on aquatic life in streams**.*
- In separate studies in the United States and New Zealand 100% of fish fed 1080 baits **survived and showed no ill effects**.*
- A study in which meat from a possum that had died from 1080 poison was fed to eels found that **all of the eels survived** and none became ill.*
- A NIWA study found that **koura (native fresh water crayfish) that ate 1080 baits did not die** and showed no ill effects.
 - The same study revealed that an 85kg person would need to consume the tail meat of about **2800 koura in a single sitting** to have a 50% chance of receiving a lethal dose.*

* **For full scientific references visit: www.1080facts.co.nz/water**

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Fostering public understanding of the importance of controlling introduced animal pests in New Zealand