

**From:** Athena Honore  
**To:** UPC  
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**Subject:** UPC: Resources for Evaluating Pesticide Concentrations

For the UPC,

U.S. EPA and the state of California have recently updated resources that can be used to answer the question "does the amount of a pesticide detected in surface water matter?"

California recently updated its compilation of water quality goals ([http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/water\\_quality\\_goals/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/water_quality_goals/)), which contains a compendium of numerical water quality limits from the literature for more than 850 chemical constituents and water quality parameters. If there is a water quality criterion or goal for a pesticide at the Federal or California level, it is probably included in this compilation. Both aquatic life protection and human health protection values are included. An on-line search tool has recently been added.

U.S. EPA Office of Pesticide Programs also recently updated its list of aquatic life benchmarks ([http://www.epa.gov/oppefed1/ecorisk\\_ders/aquatic\\_life\\_benchmark.htm](http://www.epa.gov/oppefed1/ecorisk_ders/aquatic_life_benchmark.htm)). The recent update includes a listing of Federal water quality criteria where these exist. (Note that this list is for aquatic life protection only--not for drinking water). Water quality criteria are more robust for water quality protection than U.S. EPA's aquatic life benchmarks, which are normally based on fewer data. When water quality criteria do not exist (which they don't for most pesticides), the aquatic life benchmarks are appropriate to use.

If the pesticide of interest is not listed in either of the above resources, its detected concentration can be screened by comparing to available aquatic toxicity data (additional evaluation should be undertaken if the value appears to be of interest based on this comparison). Aquatic toxicity data often be found in U.S. EPA's ECOTOX database ([www.epa.gov/ecotox/](http://www.epa.gov/ecotox/)), although the interface for this website can be hard to use. Many people use the more friendly interface at [www.pesticideinfo.org](http://www.pesticideinfo.org), which omits data since 2005.

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