

Parts Per Billion Encyclopedia Article

Parts Per Billion

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Parts Per Billion

A means of expressing minute concentrations, often of an element, compound, or particle that contaminates **soil**, water, air, or blood. The expression may be on either a mass or a volume basis, or a combination of the two, such as micrograms of a chemical per kilogram of soil, or micrograms of chemical per liter of water. In the United States, one billion equals 1×10^9 . **Dioxin**, a contaminant associated with the **herbicide 2,4,5-T** and implicated in the formation of **birth defects**, can cause concern at concentrations measured in ppb.