

# What is a Part Per Million ?

A part per million is one part of something in one million parts of something else - like a grain of salt in a million grains of sugar.

**When testing groundwater, air, or soil, scientists can measure the amount of chemical in a certain amount of water, air, or soil. The results may be given in parts per million (ppm).**

**1 penny in \$10,000**

**1 minute in 1.9 years**

**1 inch in 15.8 miles**

**1 ounce in approximately 32 tons**

These real-world comparisons are not meant to minimize the magnitude of parts per million. What is important is what the parts per million mean in regard to risk.