

Water Quality Information

pH is a measure of the acidity and alkalinity in the water. The most desired pH is neutral. Neutral water has pH 7.0

Turbidity is produced by organic or inorganic material in the water. The water has a cloudy appearance when turbidity is high. For drinking water purposes turbidity should be less than 5 Units.

Total Suspended Solids (TSS) is a measure of the non dissolved or suspended material in the water sample.

Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) is a measure of the minerals dissolved in the water sample. Secondary Drinking Water Standards recommend less than 500 mg/L.

Specific Conductance (Conductivity) is another indication of the amount of dissolved minerals in the water. The higher conductivity, the more dissolved minerals in the water. Secondary Drinking Water Standards recommend less than 900 mmhos/cm.

Calcium and Magnesium are the source of the total hardness in water. Softening systems are used to reduce the hardness for the domestic and industrial water. The main problem associated with hardness is scale formation.

Sodium and Potassium are elements that contribute to the salty taste in the drinking water.

Nitrate in small amounts is natural compound in the water. Large amounts of nitrate sometimes are present in groundwater as a pollutant carried by rain or irrigation. Excess of nitrogen and nitrate in the soil originates from fertilizers, livestock waste, and septic systems. Primary Drinking Water Standards establish 45 mg/L of nitrate as the maximum contaminant level. Water with nitrate levels higher than 45 mg/L should not be consumed by infants 6 months old and younger, or by pregnant or nursing women.

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