

Total Dissolved Solids, TDS (Community)

Purpose:

The quantity of dissolved ions can be measured as TDS. The TDS limit has been set to 500 mg/L in the Canadian Drinking Water Quality Guidelines. However, the Saskatchewan Guideline for TDS has been set to three times higher than the Canadian Guideline, 1500 mg/L.

Materials:

1 TDS Meter – each TDS meter has this instruction sheet included on the backing of the package as follows:

Method:

1. Remove the protective cap.
2. Turn the TDS meter on. The ON/OFF switch is located on the panel.
3. Immerse the meter into the water/solution up to the maximum immersion level (2”).
4. Wait until the display stabilizes. The TDS meter automatically compensates for temperature variations. Once the readout is stabilized (10-30 seconds), press the HOLD button to view the reading out of the water.
5. To use the thermometer, turn the meter on and press the TEMP button. Pressing the TEMP button again will switch it to TDS mode.
6. After usage, shake off water from your meter or wipe it with a tissue.

Results:

While it can be argued that TDS is an aesthetic objective, other problem compounds, such as iron, manganese, sulfate, bromide and arsenic etc. are often linked to high TDS levels. If you find high levels of TDS the water should be tested for these and other problem compounds. You may perform this test as often as you wish, it is recommended to test for TDS at least once every season.

Precautions:

Do not drop the entire TDS meter in water or dip beyond the maximum immersion level. This unit is not water-tight and is not covered under the warranty if water or other liquid enters the unit. Do not store the TDS meter in high temperature or direct sunlight. This will shorten the lifespan of the unit.

Visit the Safe Drinking Water Foundation Website www.safewater.org to learn more about issues affecting safe drinking water.



Safe Handling of Materials

Caution must be taken at all times when handling any chemicals, please use an exhaust/fume hood when performing this test, a very well ventilated area, or outdoors.

Wear gloves, safety glasses and some type of apron (coveralls) when handling these materials, please dispose of test strips by putting them back in Ziploc bag, and discarding in garbage. This test is only recommended for adults.

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