

Comparison Chart of Drinking Water Standards from around the World



All values are in units of mg/L unless stated otherwise

Parameter	Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality ¹		National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (USA) ²		WHO Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality ³	Drinking Water Directives (EU) ⁴
	MAC ^a	AO [or OG] ^b	MCL 1 ^c	MCL 2 ^d	Guideline Value	Parametric Value
Acrylamide					0.0005	0.0001
Adipate			0.4			
Alachor			0.002		0.02	
Aldicarb	0.009		0.007		0.01	
Aldrin and Dieldrin	0.0007				0.00003	
Aluminum		[0.1/0.2]		0.05 - 0.2		0.2
Ammonium						0.5
Antimony	0.006		0.006		0.02	0.005
Arsenic	0.01		0.05		0.01	0.01
Atrazine	0.005		0.003		0.002	
Azinphos-methyl	0.02					
Barium	1.0		2.0		0.7	
Bendiocarb	0.04					
Benzene	0.005		0.005		0.01	0.001
Benzo[a]pyrene	0.00001		0.0002		0.0007	0.00001
Beryllium			0.004			
Boron	5.0				0.5	1.00
Bromate	0.01				0.01	0.01
Bromodichloromethane (BDCM)	0.016				0.06	
Bromoform					0.1	
Bromoxynil	0.005					
Cadmium	0.005		0.005		0.003	0.005
Carbaryl	0.09					
Carbofuran	0.09		0.04		0.007	
Carbon tetrachloride	0.002		0.005		0.004	
Chloramines--total	3.0					
Chlorate	1.0				0.7	
Chlordane			0.002		0.0002	
Chloride		≤250		250		250
Chlorite	1.0				0.7	
Chloriforms, total	None detectable per 100mL		Less than 1 per 100 mL			
Chloroform					0.3	

Chlorotoluron					0.03	
Chlorpyrifos	0.09				0.03	
Chromium	0.05		0.1		0.05	0.05
Colour		≤15 TCU				Inoffensive
Copper		≤1.0	1.3	1.0	2.0	2.0
Cyanazine	0.01				0.0006	
Cyanide	0.2		0.2		0.07	0.05
Cyanobacterial toxins	0.0015					
Diazinon	0.02					
Dicamba	0.12					
1,2-Dichlorobenzene	0.2	≤0.003	0.6		1.0	
1,4-Dichlorobenzene	0.005	≤0.001	0.075		0.3	
1,2-Dichloroethane	0.005		0.005		0.03	0.003
1,1-Dichloroethylene	0.014		0.007			
Dichloromethane	0.05				0.02	
2,4-Dichlorophenol	0.9	≤0.0003				
2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid	0.1		0.07		0.03	
DDT and metabolites					0.001	
Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate			0.006		0.008	
1,2-Dichloroethylene			0.07		0.05	
1,2-Dichloropropane			0.005		0.04	
Diclofop-methyl	0.009					
Dimethoate	0.02				0.006	
Dinoseb	0.01		0.007			
1,4-Dioxane					0.05	
Diquat	0.07		0.02			
Diuron	0.15					
Edetic acid (EDTA)					0.6	
Endothall			0.1			
Endrin			0.002		0.0006	
Epichlorohydrin					0.0004	0.0001
Ethylbenzene		≤0.0024	0.7		0.3	
Fenoprop					0.009	
Fluoride	1.5		4	2.0	1.5	1.5
Glyphosate	0.28		0.7			
Haloacetic Acids-Total (HAAs)	0.08					
Heptachlor			0.0004			
Heptachlor epoxide			0.0002			
Hexachlorobenzene			0.001			
Hexachlorobutadiene					0.0006	
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene			0.05			
Hydrogen ion concentration						≥ 6.5 and ≤ 9.5
Iron		≤0.3		0.3		0.2
Isoproturon					0.009	
Lead	0.01		0.015		0.01	0.01
Lindane			0.0002		0.002	
Malathion	0.19					

Manganese		≤0.05		0.05	0.4	0.05
Mercury	0.001		0.002		0.006	0.001
Methoxychlor	0.9		0.04		0.02	
Methyl tertiary-butyl ether		0.015				
Metolachlor	0.05				0.01	
Metribuzin	0.08					
Microcystin-LR					0.001	
Molinate					0.006	
Molybdenum					0.07	
Monochloroacetate					0.02	
Monochlorobenzene	0.08	≤0.03	0.1			
<i>N</i> -Nitrosodimethylamine					0.0001	
Nickel			0.1		0.07	0.02
Nitrate	45		10		50	50
Nitrilotriacetic acid (NTA)	0.4				0.2	
Nitrite			1		3	0.5
Odour		Inoffensive				Inoffensive
Oxamyl (Vydate)			0.2			
Paraquat (as dichloride)	0.01					
Parathion	0.05					
Pendimethalin					0.02	
Pentachlorophenol	0.06	≤0.030	0.001		0.009	
Permethrin					0.3	
Pesticides						0.0001
pH		6.5-8.5		6.5-8.5		
Phorate	0.002					
Picloram	0.19		0.5			
Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)			0.0005			
Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons						0.0001
Pyriproxyfen					0.3	
Selenium	0.01		0.05		0.01	0.01
Silver				0.1		
Simazine	0.01		0.004		0.002	
Sodium		≤200				200
Styrene			0.1		0.02	
Sulphate		≤500		250		250
Sulphide (as H ₂ S)		≤0.05				
Taste		Inoffensive				Inoffensive
Temperature		≤15°C				
Terbufos	0.001					
Terbutylazine					0.007	
Tetrachloroethylene	0.03		0.005		0.04	0.01
2,3,4,6-Tetrachlorophenol	0.1	≤0.001				
Thallium			0.002	500		
Toluene		≤0.024	1.0		0.7	
Total dissolved solids (TDS)		≤500		500		
Toxaphene			0.003			

Trichloroacetate					0.2	
Trichloroethylene	0.005		0.005		0.02	0.01
2,4,6-Trichlorophenol	0.005	≤0.002			0.2	
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene			0.002			
Trifluralin	0.045				0.02	
Trihalomethanes-total	0.1		0.1			0.1
Tritium	7000 Bq/L				10000 Bq/L	100 Bq/l
Turbidity	0.1-1.0 NTU		0.5-1.0 NTU			Inoffensive
Uranium	0.02				0.015	
Vinyl chloride	0.002				0.0003	0.0005
Xylenes--total		≤0.3	10		0.5	
Zinc		≤5.0		5.0		

^a Maximum Acceptable Concentration - guideline is health-based

^b Aesthetic Objective [or Operational Guidance Value] - based on aesthetic or operational considerations

^c Primary Maximum Contaminant Level - regulation is health-based

^d Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level - regulation is based on aesthetic considerations

¹ Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Drinking Water. (2012). *Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality Summary Table*. Health Canada.

-This document in pdf format can be viewed at

http://hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/alt_formats/hecs-sesc/pdf/pubs/water-eau/sum_guide-res_recom/summary-sommaire-eng.pdf

² National Primary Drinking Water Regulations. Retrieved from

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/consumer/pdf/mcl.pdf>

³ World Health Organization. (2008). *Drinking Water Quality: Third Edition incorporating the First and Second Addenda, Volume 1: Recommendations*. Geneva.

-This document in pdf format can be viewed at http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/dwq/fulltext.pdf

⁴ Council of the European Union. (1998). *Council Directive 98/83/EC on the Quality of Water Intended for Human Consumption*. Retrieved from

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