



Drinking Water Quality Standards and Objectives

Analyte	Units	Objective ¹	Objective Type
Bicarbonate	mg/L	ng	
Calcium	mg/L	ng	
Carbonate	mg/L	ng	
Chloride	mg/L	250	Aesthetic Objective
Hydroxide	mg/L	ng	
Magnesium	mg/L	200	Aesthetic Objective
pH	pH units	6.5 to 9.0	Aesthetic Objective
Potassium	mg/L	ng	
Sodium	mg/L	300	Aesthetic Objective
Specific Conductivity	: S/cm	ng	
Sulphate	mg/L	500	Aesthetic Objective
Sum of Ions	mg/L	1,500	Aesthetic Objective
Total Alkalinity	mg/L	500	Aesthetic Objective
Total Hardness	mg/L	800	Aesthetic Objective
Ammonia, as Nitrogen	mg/L	ng	
Nitrate	mg/L	45	Maximum Acceptable Concentration
Ortho-Phosphate, as P	mg/L	ng	
Phosphorous, Total	mg/L	ng	
Organic Carbon, Dissolved	mg/L	<5 mg/L	Recommended
Iron	mg/L	0.3	Aesthetic Objective
Manganese	mg/L	0.05	Aesthetic Objective
Mercury	mg/L	0.001	Maximum Acceptable Concentration
True Colour	APHA	15	Aesthetic Objective
Turbidity	NTU	1.0	Maximum Acceptable Concentration
<i>Escherichia</i> Coliform Bacteria	ct/100 mL	0	Maximum Acceptable Concentration
Plate Count	ct/mL	500	Maximum Acceptable Concentration
Total Coliform Bacteria	ct/100 mL	0	Maximum Acceptable Concentration
Chlorophyll <i>a</i>	: g/L	ng	

¹ Based upon Saskatchewan's Drinking Water Quality Standards and Objectives

mg/L = milligrams per litre

: g/L = micrograms per litre

: S/cm = microsiemens per centimeter

APHA = American Public Health Association

ct/100 mL = count per 100 milliliters

ct/mL = count per milliliters

ng = no guideline set

Please note that there are three terms commonly used when referencing drinking water quality guidelines and objectives:

(1) **Maximum Acceptable Concentration (MAC)**

Maximum acceptable concentrations have been established for certain substances that are known or suspected to cause adverse effects on health. Each MAC has been derived to safeguard health assuming lifelong consumption of drinking water containing the substance at that concentration.

(2) **Interim Maximum Acceptable Concentration (IMAC)**

For those substances for which there are insufficient toxicological data to derive a MAC with reasonable certainty, interim values are recommended, taking into account the available health-related data but employing a larger safety factor to compensate for the additional uncertainties involved.

(3) **Aesthetic Objective (AO)**

Aesthetic objectives (AO) apply to certain substances or characteristics of drinking water that can affect its acceptance by consumers or interfere with practices for supplying good quality water. For certain parameters, both AO and health-related guidelines (e.g., MAC) have been derived. Where only AO are specified, these values are below those considered to constitute a health hazard.