

National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations

National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations (NSDWRs or secondary standards) are non-enforceable guidelines regulating contaminants that may cause cosmetic effects (such as skin or tooth discoloration) or aesthetic effects (such as taste, odor, or color) in drinking water. EPA recommends secondary standards to water systems but does not require systems to comply. However, states may choose to adopt them as enforceable standards.

- [National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations](#) - The complete regulations regarding these contaminants available from the Code of Federal Regulations Web Site.
- For more information, read [Secondary Drinking Water Regulations: Guidance for Nuisance Chemicals](#).

List of National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations

Contaminant	Secondary Standard
Aluminum	0.05 to 0.2 mg/L
Chloride	250 mg/L
Color	15 (color units)
Copper	1.0 mg/L
Corrosivity	noncorrosive
Fluoride	2.0 mg/L
Foaming Agents	0.5 mg/L
Iron	0.3 mg/L
Manganese	0.05 mg/L
Odor	3 threshold odor number
pH	6.5-8.5
Silver	0.10 mg/L
Sulfate	250 mg/L
Total Dissolved Solids	500 mg/L
Zinc	5 mg/L

Top of page

Unregulated Contaminants

This list of contaminants which, at the time of publication, are not subject to any proposed or promulgated national primary drinking water regulation (NPDWR), are known or anticipated to occur in public water systems, and may require regulations under SDWA. For more information check out the list, or visit the Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List (CCL) web site.

National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations



National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations (NSDWRs or secondary standards) are non-enforceable guidelines regulating contaminants that may cause cosmetic effects (such as skin or tooth discoloration) or aesthetic effects (such as taste, odor, or color) in drinking water. EPA recommends secondary standards to water systems but does not require systems to comply. However, states may choose to adopt them as enforceable standards.

- [National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations](#) - The complete regulations regarding these contaminants available from the Code of Federal Regulations Web Site.
- For more information, read [Secondary Drinking Water Regulations: Guidance for Nuisance Chemicals](#).

List of National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations

Contaminant	Secondary Standard
Aluminum	0.05 to 0.2 mg/L
Chloride	250 mg/L
Color	15 (color units)
Copper	1.0 mg/L
Corrosivity	noncorrosive
Fluoride	2.0 mg/L
Foaming Agents	0.5 mg/L
Iron	0.3 mg/L
Manganese	0.05 mg/L
Odor	3 threshold odor number
pH	6.5-8.5
Silver	0.10 mg/L
Sulfate	250 mg/L
Total Dissolved Solids	500 mg/L
Zinc	5 mg/L

[↑Top of page](#)

Unregulated Contaminants

This list of contaminants which, at the time of publication, are not subject to any proposed or promulgated national primary drinking water regulation (NPDWR), are known or anticipated to occur in public water systems, and may require regulations under SDWA. For more information check out the list, or visit the Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List (CCL) web site.

- [Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List 2](#)
- [Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List \(CCL\) Web Site](#)

[Safewater Home](#)

[Contaminants Home](#)

[Basic Information about Drinking Water Contaminants](#)

- [Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Program \(UCM\)](#)
- **Information on specific unregulated contaminants**
 - [MTBE \(methyl-t-butyl ether\) in drinking water](#)

↑ Top of page

[Safewater Home](#) | [About Our Office](#) | [Publications](#) | [Questions and Answers](#) | [Links](#) | [Office of Water](#) | [En Español](#)

[EPA Home](#) | [Privacy and Security Notice](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Last updated on Wednesday, October 7th, 2009.
<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/contaminants/index.html#sec>
[Print As-Is](#)