

Drinking Water Evaluation

MCL is Maximum Contaminant Level, the highest acceptable concentration of analyte. Compare these MCL's to your results. Acceptable RESULTS are less than the MCL's for each analyte. The MCL's are determined by the California Department of Health Services. They are listed in the Code of Regulations, Title 22, Sections 64431 & 64449.

"ANALYTE" is the chemical that is measured

"UNITS" are in mg/L (ppm) = milligrams per liter (parts per million). To convert mg/L to ug/L (ppb): 1 mg/L = 1,000 ug/L; 1 ug/L = 0.001 mg/L.

Primary Standards – Inorganic Chemicals

Primary standards analytes have potential toxic effects when above the MCL.

Symbol	Analyte	MCL (in mg/L)	Symbol	Analyte	MCL (in mg/L)
Al	Aluminum	1	Pb	Lead*	0.015
Sb	Antimony	0.006	F	Fluoride	2
As	Arsenic	0.01	Hg	Mercury	0.002
Ba	Barium	1	Ni	Nickel	0.1
Be	Beryllium	0.004	NO ₃	Nitrate as NO ₃	45
Cd	Cadmium	0.005	NO ₂	Nitrite	1
Cr	Chromium	0.05	Se	Selenium	0.05
CN	Cyanide	0.15	Tl	Thallium	0.002

*Lead MCL is a Federal Action Level at distribution points

Secondary Standards/Consumer Acceptable Limits

Symbol	Analyte	MCL	Symbol	Analyte	MCL
Al	Aluminum	0.2 mg/L	Mn	Manganese	0.05 mg/L
	Color	15 units		MBAS	0.5 mg/L
Cu	Copper	1 mg/L		Odor	3 Units
Fe	Iron	0.3 mg/L	Ag	Silver	0.1 mg/L
	MTBE	0.005 mg/L	NTU	Turbidity	5 units
Zn	Zinc	5 mg/L			

Symbol	Analyte	MCL - Recommended	MCL - Upper	Short Term	Units
TDS	Total Dissolved Solids	500	1000	1500	mg/L
EC	Electrical Conductance	900	1600	2200	µmhos/cm
Cl	Chloride	250	500	600	mg/L
SO ₄	Sulfate	250	500	600	mg/L

Note: Not all analytes are listed in the above tables. For a complete listing of all chemicals in drinking water with MCLs or Secondary standards please visit the CDPH and EPA websites:

<http://water.epa.gov/drink/contaminants/>

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/MCLsandPHGs.shtml