

Federal and NJ State Primary and Secondary Drinking Water Standards as of June 2020

Volatile Organic Compounds

Contaminants	Maximum Contaminant Levels [MCL] [µg/l or ppb]
Benzene	1*
Carbon Tetrachloride	2*
1,2-Dichlorobenzene	600
1,3- Dichlorobenzene	600*
1,4- Dichlorobenzene	75
1,1-Dichloroethane	50*
1,2-Dichloroethane	2*
1,1-Dichloroethylene	2*
cis- 1,2-Dichloroethylene	70
trans- 1,2-Dichloroethylene	100
1,2-Dichloropropane	5
Ethylbenzene	700
Methyl tertiary Butyl Ether	70*
Methylene Chloride	3*
Monochlorobenzene	50*
Naphthalene	300*
Styrene	100
1, 1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane	1*
Tetrachloroethylene	1*
Toluene	1,000
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	9*
1,1,1-Trichloroethane	30*
1,1,2-Trichloroethane	3*
Trichloroethylene	1*
Vinyl Chloride	2
Xylenes [Total]	1,000*

Radionuclides

Contaminants	Maximum Contaminant Levels [MCL]
Combined radium 226/228	5 pCi/L
Gross alpha particles	15 pCi/L
Beta/photon emitters	4 mrem/year
Uranium	30 µg/L

Other Contaminants

Turbidity No more than 5% of the samples may exceed 0.3 NTU, nor any sample exceed 1 NTU.

Coliform bacteria standards are based on an MCL for E. coli, and uses E. coli and total coliforms to initiate a "find and fix" approach to address fecal contamination that could enter into the distribution system. It requires public water systems to perform assessments to identify sanitary defects and subsequently take action to correct them.

Inorganic Chemicals

Contaminants	Maximum Contaminant Levels [MCL] [µg/l or ppb]
Antimony	6
Arsenic	5 *
Asbestos	7 x 10 ⁶ fibers/l >10 µm
Barium	2,000
Beryllium	4
Cadmium	5
Chromium	100
Copper	1,300**[AL]
Cyanide	200
Fluoride	4,000
Lead	15**[AL]
Mercury	2
Nickel	+
Nitrate [as nitrogen]	10,000
Nitrite	1,000
[combined nitrate/nitrite]	10,000
Selenium	50
Thallium	2

Disinfection Byproducts

Contaminants	Maximum Contaminant Levels [MCL] µg/L or ppb (as running annual averages per group)
Dichlorobromomethane	80 (TTHM)
Chlorodibromomethane	80 (TTHM)
Bromofrom	80 (TTHM)
Chloroform	80 (TTHM)
Monochloroacetic acid	60 (HAA5)
Dichloroacetic acid	60 (HAA5)
Trichloroacetic acid	60 (HAA5)
Bromoacetic acid	60 (HAA5)
Dibromoacetic acid	60 (HAA5)
Bromate	10
Chlorite	1,000

TTHM- Trihalomethanes

HAA5- Haloacetic Acids

Bromate (only for treatment plants using ozone)

Chlorite (only for treatment plants using chlorine dioxide), requires daily/follow-up monitoring, not annual

For a detailed explanation of the Safe Drinking Water Program, refer to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act regulations [40 CFR Parts 141, 142, 143] and the New Jersey Safe Drinking Water regulations [N.J.A.C. 7:10-1 et seq.].

Synthetic Organic Compounds

Contaminants	Maximum Contaminant Levels [MCL] [µg/l or ppb]
Alachlor	2
Aldicarb	+
Aldicarb Sulfone	+
Aldicarb Sulfoxide	+
Atrazine	3
Benzo[a]pyrene	0.2
Carbofuran	40
Chlordane	0.5*
Dalapon	200
Dibromochloropropane [DBCP]	0.2
Di[2-ethylhexyl]adipate	400
Di[2-ethylhexyl]phthalate	6
Dinoseb	7
Diquat	20
Endothall	100
Endrin	2
Ethylene dibromide [EDB]	0.05
Glyphosate	700
Heptachlor	0.4
Heptachlor Epoxide	0.2
Hexachlorobenzene	1
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	50
Lindane	0.2
Methoxychlor	40
Oxamyl	200
PCBs	0.5
Pentachlorophenol	1
Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA)	0.013*
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	0.014*
Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS)	0.013*
Picloram	500
Simazine	4
Toxaphene	3
2,3,7,8—TCDD [Dioxin]	3x10 ⁻⁵
2,4-D	70
2,4,5-TP [Silvex]	50
1,2,3-Trichloropropane (1,2,3-TCP)	0.030*

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS such as PFNA, PFOA & PFOS) are considered to be Synthetic Organic Compounds due to their chemical makeup, however, their regulatory framework follows that of Volatile Organic Compounds

Secondary Standards

Physical Characteristics	Recommended Upper Limit or Optimum Range
Color	10 color units (standard cobalt scale)
pH	6.5 to 8.5 (optimum range)
Odor	3 Threshold odor number
Taste	No objectionable taste
Chemical Characteristics	Recommended Upper Limit [mg/l or ppm]
ABS/L.A.S.	0.5
Aluminum	0.2
Chloride	250
Fluoride	2
Hardness (as CaCO ₃)	250
Iron	0.3
Manganese	0.05
Silver	0.1
Sodium	50
Sulfate	250
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	500
Zinc	5

Key:

* N.J. MCL [A-280]

** An [AL] action level is not an MCL. It is a trigger point at which remedial action is to take place

+ No MCL – Monitoring Required

One milligram per liter [mg/l] = one part per million = one cent in \$10,000 or one second in 12 days.

One microgram per liter [µg//l] = one part per billion = one cent in \$10,000,000 or one second in 32 years.



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