

State and Federal Regulated Contaminants

USEPA has set drinking water standards or Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for more than 80 contaminants. The standards limit the amount of each substance allowed to be present in drinking water. A process called risk assessment is used to set drinking water quality standards. When assessing the cancer and non-cancer risks from exposure to a chemical in drinking water, the first step is to measure how much of the chemical could be in the water. Next, scientists estimate how much of the chemical the average person is likely to drink. This amount is called the exposure. In developing drinking water standards, USEPA assumes that the average adult drinks 2 liters of water each day throughout a 70-year life span. Risks are estimated separately for cancer and non-cancer effects. For cancer effects, a risk assessment estimates a measure of the chances that someone may get cancer because they have been exposed to a drinking water contaminant.

USEPA generally sets MCLs at levels that will limit an individual's risk of cancer from that contaminant to between 1 in 10,000 and 1 in 1,000,000 over a lifetime. For non-cancer effects, the risk assessment estimates an exposure level below which no adverse effects are expected to occur. MCLs are set based on known or anticipated adverse human health effects, the ability of various technologies to remove the contaminant, their effectiveness, and cost of treatment. All MCLs are set at levels that protect public health. The limit for many substances is based on lifetime exposure so, for most potential contaminants, short-term exceedances pose a limited health risk. The exceptions are the standards for coliform bacteria and nitrate, for which exceedances can pose an immediate threat to health. To comply with MCLs, public water systems may use any state-approved treatment. When it is not economically or technologically feasible to set an MCL for a contaminant—for example, when the contaminant cannot be easily measured—USEPA may require use of a particular treatment technique instead. The technique specifies the design for part of the drinking water treatment process.

Illinois has adopted all federal MCLs and also has adopted several state-only drinking water standards (no federal MCL). These state-only regulated contaminants are identified as “*state only*” on the following tables.

Table Definitions

mg/L	Milligrams per Liter (unit of measure). Milligrams are equivalent to parts per million (ppm)
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units (unit of measure)
MFL	Million Fibers per Liter (unit of measure)
pCi/L	Picocuries per Liter (a measure of radioactivity)
AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant that triggers treatment or other required actions by the water supply.
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level: The MCL is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology. If a facility exceeds the MCL, the facility must immediately investigate treatment options to reduce the level of the contaminant in the water supply.
MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
TT	Treatment Technique: For some contaminants, a TT is established rather than an MCL. TT is a required process intended to reduce or control the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
PHG (MCLG)	Public Health Goal (MCL Goal): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

State and Federal Regulated Contaminants

MICROBIAL CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant	MCL (mg/L)	Common Sources of Contamination in Drinking Water	Potential Health Effects from Exposure above the MCL	Public Health Goal
Total Coliform Bacteria (including fecal coliform and <i>E. coli</i>)	5.0%	Not a health threat in itself; it is used to indicate whether other potentially harmful bacteria may be present.	<p>Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.</p> <p>Fecal coliforms and <i>E. coli</i> are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, and people with severely compromised immune systems.</p>	Zero
	No more than 5.0% samples total coliform-positive in a month. (For water systems that collect fewer than 40 routine samples per month, no more than one sample can be total coliform-positive per month.) Every sample that has total coliform must be analyzed for either fecal coliforms or <i>E. coli</i> if two consecutive TC-positive samples, and one is also positive for <i>E. coli</i> fecal coliforms, system has an acute MCL violation.			

The Surface Water Treatment Rules require systems using surface water or ground water under the direct influence of surface water to (1) disinfect their water, and (2) filter their water or meet criteria for avoiding filtration so that the following contaminants are controlled at the following levels:

- **Cryptosporidium** (as of 1/1/02 for systems serving >10,000 and 1/14/05 for systems serving <10,000) **99% removal.**
- **Giardia lamblia:** **99.9% removal/inactivation**
- **Viruses:** **99.99% removal/inactivation**
- **Legionella:** **No limit, but USEPA believes that if Giardia and viruses are removed/inactivated, Legionella will also be controlled.**
- **Turbidity:** **At no time can turbidity (cloudiness of water) go above 1 NTU; systems that filter must ensure that the turbidity go no higher than 1 NTU (0.3 NTU for conventional or direct filtration) in at least 95% of the daily samples in any month.**
- **HPC:** **No more than 500 bacterial colonies per milliliter**
- **Filter Backwash Recycling:** **The Filter Backwash Recycling Rule requires systems that recycle to return specific recycle flows through all processes of the system's existing conventional or direct filtration system or at an alternate location approved by the state.**

See next page(TT*)

State and Federal Regulated Contaminants

Contaminant	MCL (mg/L)	Common Sources of Contamination in Drinking Water	Potential Health Effects from Exposure above the MCL	Public Health Goal
Turbidity	TT*	Soil runoff	Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. It is used to indicate water quality and filtration effectiveness (e.g., whether disease-causing organisms are present). Higher turbidity levels are often associated with higher levels of disease-causing micro-organisms such as viruses, parasites and some bacteria. These organisms can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. Increased risk of cancer, kidney toxicity	n/a
<i>Cryptosporidium</i>	TT*	Human and animal fecal waste	Gastrointestinal illness (e.g., diarrhea, vomiting, cramps)	Zero
<i>Giardia lamblia</i>	TT*	Human and animal fecal waste	Gastrointestinal illness (e.g., diarrhea, vomiting, cramps)	Zero
Heterotrophic plate count (HPC)	TT*	HPC measures a range of bacteria that are naturally present in the environment	HPC has no health effects; it is an analytic method used to measure the variety of bacteria that are common in water. The lower the concentration of bacteria in drinking water, the better maintained the water system is.	n/a
<i>Legionella</i>	TT*	Found naturally in water; multiplies in heating systems	Legionnaire's Disease, a type of pneumonia	Zero
Viruses (enteric)	TT*	Human and animal fecal waste	Gastrointestinal illness (e.g., diarrhea, vomiting, cramps)	Zero

* See Previous Page Surface Water Treatment Rules

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant	MCL (mg/L)	Common Sources of Contamination in Drinking Water	Potential Health Effects from Exposure above the MCL (based on consumption in excess of MCL for many years unless otherwise noted)	Public Health Goal
Antimony	0.006	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder	Increase in blood cholesterol; decrease in blood sugar	0.006
Arsenic	0.010	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards, runoff from glass & electronics production wastes	Skin damage or problems with circulatory systems, and may have increased risk of getting cancer	Zero
Asbestos (fibers >10 micrometers)	7 MFL	Decay of asbestos cement water mains; erosion of natural deposits	Increased risk of developing benign intestinal polyps	7 MFL
Barium	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits	Increase in blood pressure	2

State and Federal Regulated Contaminants

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS (continued)

Contaminant	MCL (mg/L)	Common Sources of Contamination in Drinking Water	Potential Health Effects from Exposure above the MCL (based on consumption in excess of MCL for many years unless otherwise noted)	Public Health Goal
Beryllium	0.004	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries	Intestinal lesions	0.004
Cadmium	0.005	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints	Kidney damage	0.005
Chromium (total)	0.1	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits	Allergic dermatitis	0.1
Copper	TT; AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	Short term exposure: Gastrointestinal distress. Long term exposure: Liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor if the amount of copper in their water exceeds the action level	1.3
Copper is regulated by a Treatment Technique that requires systems to control the corrosiveness of their water. If more than 10% of tap water samples exceed the action level, water systems must take additional steps. For copper, the action level is 1.3 mg/L.				
Cyanide (as free cyanide)	0.2	Discharge from steel/metal factories; discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories	Nerve damage or thyroid problems	0.2
Fluoride	4.0	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	Bone disease (pain and tenderness of the bones); Children may get mottled teeth	4.0
Iron (state only)	1.0 (state only)	Erosion from naturally occurring deposits	Excessive iron in water may cause staining of laundry & plumbing fixtures & may accumulate as deposits in the distribution system.	n/a
Lead	TT; AL=0.015	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	Infants and children: Delays in physical or mental development; children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities; Adults: Kidney problems; high blood pressure	Zero
Lead is regulated by a Treatment Technique that requires systems to control the corrosiveness of their water. If more than 10% of tap water samples exceed the action level, water systems must take additional steps. For lead, the action level is 0.015 mg/L.				
Manganese (state only)	0.15 (state only)	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits	Excessive manganese in the water may cause staining of plumbing fixtures and laundry. It may also produce an unpleasant taste in beverages, including coffee & tea.	n/a

State and Federal Regulated Contaminants

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS (continued)

Contaminant	MCL (mg/L)	Common Sources of Contamination in Drinking Water	Potential Health Effects from Exposure above the MCL (based on consumption in excess of MCL for many years unless otherwise noted)	Public Health Goal
Mercury (inorganic)	0.002	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills and croplands	Kidney damage	0.002
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits	Immediate Health Effects: Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome.	10
Nitrite (measured as Nitrogen)	1	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits	Immediate Health Effects: Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome.	1
Total Nitrate and Nitrite	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits	Immediate Health Effects: Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome.	10
Selenium	0.05	Discharge from petroleum refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines	Hair or fingernail loss; numbness in fingers or toes; circulatory problems	0.05
Sodium	n/a	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits; used in water softener regeneration	n/a	n/a
	Monitoring is required to provide information to consumers and health officials that are concerned about sodium intake due to dietary precautions. If you are on a sodium-restricted diet, you should consult a physician.			
Thallium	0.002	Leaching from ore-processing sites; discharge from electronics, glass, and drug factories	Hair loss; changes in blood; kidney, intestine, or liver problems	0.0005
Zinc (state only)	5.0 (state only)	Naturally occurring; discharge from metal factories	Some people who drink water containing excessive zinc may experience toxic effects to the blood & cardiovascular systems, damage may occur to the skin, respiratory system, developmental system, reproductive system, and it may weaken the immune system.	n/a

State and Federal Regulated Contaminants

Synthetic Organic Contaminants (SOCs) including Pesticides and Herbicides

Contaminant	MCL (mg/L)	Common Sources of Contamination in Drinking Water	Potential Health Effects from Exposure above the MCL (based on consumption in excess of MCL for many years unless otherwise noted)	Public Health Goal
2,4-D <i>(State has imposed a more stringent MCL)</i>	0.01 <i>(State MCL)</i> 0.07 <i>(Federal MCL)</i>	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops	Kidney, liver, or adrenal gland problems	0.07 <i>(Federal)</i>
2,4,5-TP (Silvex)	0.05	Residue of banned herbicide	Liver problems	0.05
Alachlor	0.002	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops	Eye, liver, kidney or spleen problems; anemia; increased risk of cancer	zero
Aldrin (state only)	0.001 <i>(state only)</i>	Runoff from use as an insecticide, not used since 1987	May experience problems with their liver, nervous system, weakened immune system, fetal damage may occur in pregnant women, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.	n/a
Atrazine	0.003	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops	Cardiovascular system or reproductive problems	0.003
Benzo(A)pyrene (PAH)	0.0002	Leaching from linings of water storage tanks and distribution lines	Reproductive difficulties; increased risk of cancer	zero
Carbofuran	0.04	Leaching of soil fumigant used on rice and alfalfa	Problems with blood, nervous system, or reproductive system	0.04
Chlordane	0.002	Residue of banned termiticide	Liver or nervous system problems; increased risk of cancer	zero
Dalapon	0.2	Runoff from herbicide used on rights of way	Minor kidney changes	0.2
Total DDT (state only)	0.05 <i>(state only)</i>	Runoff from use as a contact insecticide	Some people who drink water containing excessive DDT may experience problems with their reproductive or developmental systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.	n/a

State and Federal Regulated Contaminants

Synthetic Organic Contaminants (SOCs) including Pesticides and Herbicides (cont.)

Contaminant	MCL (mg/L)	Common Sources of Contamination in Drinking Water	Potential Health Effects from Exposure above the MCL (based on consumption in excess of MCL for many years unless otherwise noted)	Public Health Goal
Di(2-ethylhexyl) Adipate	0.4	Discharge from chemical factories	Weight loss, live problems, or possible reproductive difficulties	0.4
Di(2-ethylhexyl) Phthalate	0.006	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories	Reproductive difficulties; liver problems; increased risk of cancer	zero
Dibromochloropropane (DBCP)	0.0002	Runoff/leaching from soil fumigant used on soybeans, cotton, pineapples, and orchards	Reproductive difficulties; increased risk of cancer	zero
Dieldrin (state only)	0.001 (state only)	Runoff from use as an insecticide, not used since 1987	Liver, nervous system, weakened immune system, fetal damage may occur in pregnant women, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer	n/a
Dinoseb	0.007	Runoff from herbicide used on soybeans and vegetables	Reproductive difficulties	0.007
Diquat	0.02	Runoff from herbicide use	Cataracts	0.02
Dioxin (2,3,7,8-TCDD)	0.00000003	Emissions from waste incineration and other combustion; discharge from chemical factories	Reproductive difficulties; increased risk of cancer	zero
Endothall	0.1	Runoff from herbicide use	Stomach and intestinal problems	0.1
Endrin	0.002	Residue of banned insecticide	Liver problems	0.002
Ethylene Dibromide	0.00005	Discharge from petroleum refineries	Problems with liver, stomach, reproductive system, or kidneys; increased risk of cancer	zero
Glyphosate	0.7	Runoff from herbicide use	Kidney problems; reproductive difficulties	0.7
Heptachlor <i>(State has imposed a more stringent MCL)</i>	0.0001 (State MCL) 0.0004 (Federal MCL)	Residue of banned termiticide	Liver damage; increased risk of cancer	zero

State and Federal Regulated Contaminants

Synthetic Organic Contaminants (SOCs) including Pesticides and Herbicides (continued)

Contaminant	MCL (mg/L)	Common Sources of Contamination in Drinking Water	Potential Health Effects from Exposure above the MCL (based on consumption in excess of MCL for many years unless otherwise noted)	Public Health Goal
Heptachlor Epoxide <i>(State has imposed a more stringent MCL)</i>	0.0001 <i>(State MCL)</i> 0.0002 <i>(Federal MCL)</i>	Breakdown of heptachlor	Liver damage; increased risk of cancer	zero
Hexachlorobenzene	0.001	Discharge from metal refineries and agricultural chemical factories	Liver or kidney problems; reproductive difficulties; increased risk of cancer	zero
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	0.05	Discharge from chemical factories	Kidney or stomach problems	0.05
Lindane	0.0002	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on cattle, lumber, gardens	Liver or kidney problems	0.0002
Methoxychlor	0.04	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on fruits, vegetables, alfalfa, livestock	Reproductive difficulties	0.04
Oxamyl (Vydate)	0.2	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on apples, potatoes, and tomatoes	Slight nervous system effects	0.2
PCBs (Polychlorinated Biphenyls)	0.0005	Runoff from landfills; discharge of waste chemicals	Skin changes; thymus gland problems; immune deficiencies; reproductive or nervous system difficulties; increased risk of cancer	zero
Pentachlorophenol	0.001	Discharge from wood preserving factories	Liver or kidney problems; increased cancer risk	zero
Picloram	0.5	Herbicide runoff	Liver problems	0.5
Simazine	0.004	Herbicide runoff	Problems with blood	0.004
Toxaphene	0.003	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on cotton and cattle	Kidney, liver, or thyroid problems; increased risk of cancer	zero

State and Federal Regulated Contaminants

Volatile Organic Contaminants (VOCs)

Contaminant	MCL (mg/L)	Common Sources of Contamination in Drinking Water	Potential Health Effects from Exposure above the MCL (based on consumption in excess of MCL for many years unless otherwise noted)	Public Health Goal
Benzene	0.005	Discharge from factories; leaching from gas storage tanks and landfills	Anemia; decrease in blood platelets; increased risk of cancer	zero
Carbon tetrachloride	0.005	Discharge from chemical plants and other industrial activities	Liver problems; increased risk of cancer	zero
Chlorobenzene	0.1	Discharge from chemical and agricultural chemical factories	Liver or kidney problems	0.1
o-Dichlorobenzene	0.6	Discharge from industrial chemical factories	Liver, kidney, or circulatory system problems	0.6
p-Dichlorobenzene	0.075	Discharge from industrial chemical factories	Anemia; liver, kidney or spleen damage; changes in blood	0.075
1,2-Dichloroethane	0.005	Discharge from industrial chemical factories	Increased risk of cancer	zero
1,1-Dichloroethylene	0.007	Discharge from industrial chemical factories	Liver problems	0.007
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene	0.07	Discharge from industrial chemical factories	Liver problems	0.07
trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene	0.1	Discharge from industrial chemical factories	Liver problems	0.1
Dichloromethane	0.005	Discharge from drug and chemical factories	Liver problems	zero
1,2-Dichloropropane	0.005	Discharge from industrial chemical factories	Increased risk of cancer	zero
Ethylbenzene	0.7	Discharge from petroleum refineries	Liver or kidneys problems	0.7
Styrene	0.1	Discharge from rubber and plastic factories; leaching from landfills	Liver, kidney, or circulatory system problems	0.1
Tetrachloroethylene	0.005	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners	Liver problems; increased risk of cancer	zero

State and Federal Regulated Contaminants

Volatile Organic Contaminants (cont.)

Contaminant	MCL (mg/L)	Common Sources of Contamination in Drinking Water	Potential Health Effects from Exposure above the MCL (based on consumption in excess of MCL for many years unless otherwise noted)	Public Health Goal
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	0.07	Discharge from textile finishing factories	Changes in adrenal glands	0.07
1,1,1-Trichloroethane	0.2	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories	Liver, nervous system, or circulatory problems	0.2
1,1,2-Trichloroethane	0.005	Discharge from industrial chemical factories	Liver, kidney, or immune system problems	0.003
Trichloroethylene	0.005	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories	Liver problems; increased risk of cancer	zero
Toluene	1	Discharge from petroleum factories	Nervous system, kidney, or liver problems	1
Vinyl Chloride	0.002	Leaching from PVC pipes; discharge from plastic factories	Increased risk of cancer	zero
Xylenes (total)	10	Discharge from petroleum factories; discharge from chemical factories	Nervous system damage	10

Other Organic Contaminants

Contaminant	MCL (mg/L)	Common Sources of Contamination in Drinking Water	Potential Health Effects from Exposure above the MCL (based on consumption in excess of MCL for many years unless otherwise noted)	Public Health Goal
Acrylamide	TT	Added to water during sewage/wastewater increased risk of cancer treatment	Nervous system or blood problems and may have increased risk of getting cancer	zero
Epichlorohydrin	TT	Discharge from industrial chemical factories; an impurity of some water treatment chemicals	Increased cancer risk, and over a long period of time, stomach problems	zero

Each water system must certify, to the state (using third-party or manufacturers certification) that when it uses acrylamide and/or epichlorohydrin to treat water, the combination (or product) of dose and monomer level does not exceed the levels specified, as follows: Acrylamide = 0.05% dosed at 1 mg/L (or equivalent); Epichlorohydrin = 0.01% dosed at 20 mg/L (or equivalent).

State and Federal Regulated Contaminants

Radiological Contaminants

Contaminant	MCL	Common Sources of Contamination in Drinking Water	Potential Health Effects from Exposure above the MCL (based on consumption in excess of MCL for many years unless otherwise noted)	Public Health Goal
Alpha emitters	15 pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits of certain minerals that are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation	Increased risk of cancer	zero
Beta particles and photon emitters	4 millirems per year	Decay of natural and man-made deposits of certain minerals that are radioactive and may emit forms of radiation known as photons and beta radiation	Increased risk of cancer	zero
Combined Radium (Radium 226 & Radium 228)	5 pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits	Increased risk of cancer	zero
Uranium	0.03 mg/L	Erosion of natural deposits	Increased risk of cancer, kidney toxicity	zero

Disinfection / Disinfectant By-Products

Contaminant	MCL (mg/L)	Common Sources of Contamination in Drinking Water	Potential Health Effects from Exposure above the MCL (based on consumption in excess of MCL for many years unless otherwise noted)	Public Health Goal
Bromate	0.010	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	Increased risk of cancer	zero
Chlorite	1.0	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	Anemia; infants & young children: nervous system effects	0.8
Haloacetic acids (HAA5)	0.060	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	Increased risk of cancer	n/a
Although there is no collective MCLG for this contaminant, there are individual MCLGs for some of the individual contaminants: dichloroacetic acid (zero); trichloroacetic acid (0.3 mg/L)				

State and Federal Regulated Contaminants

Disinfection / Disinfectant By-Products (cont.)

Contaminant	MCL (mg/L)	Common Sources of Contamination in Drinking Water	Potential Health Effects from Exposure above the MCL (based on consumption in excess of MCL for many years unless otherwise noted)	Public Health Goal
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	0.080	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	Liver, kidney or central nervous system problems; increased risk of cancer	n/a
	Although there is no collective MCLG for this contaminant, there are individual MCLGs for some of the individual contaminants: bromodichloromethane (zero); bromoform (zero); dibromochloromethane (0.06 mg/L)			
Chlorine (as Cl₂)	MRDL=4.0	Water additive used to control microbes	Eye/nose irritation; stomach discomfort	MRDLG=4
Chloramines (as Cl₂)	MRDL=4.0	Water additive used to control microbes	Eye/nose irritation; stomach discomfort	MRDLG=4
Chlorine dioxide (as ClO₂)	MRDL=0.8	Water additive used to control microbes	Anemia; infants & young children: nervous system effects	MRDLG=0.8
<p>Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)—The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water.</p> <p>Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)—The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.</p>				

National Secondary Drinking Water Standards

National Secondary Drinking Water 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. USEPA recommends secondary standards to water systems but does not require systems to comply.

Contaminant	Secondary Standard	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		