

WHO produces international norms on water quality and human health in the form of guidelines that are used as the basis for regulation and standard setting world-wide. The primary purpose of the WHO Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality (GDWQ) is the protection of public health associated with drinking-water quality. It is guidance to countries and to others as to what constitutes safe drinking-water and safe water supply.

Parameters	Standard limits as per WHO guidelines (mg/L)
Acrylamide	0.0005
Alachor	0.02
Aldicarb	0.01
Aldrin and Dieldrin	0.00003
Ammonia	1.5
Antimony	0.02
Arsenic	0.01
Atrazine	0.002
Barium	0.7
Benzene	0.01
Benzo(?)pyrene	0.0007
Boron	0.5
Bromate	0.01
Bromodichloromethane (BDCM)	0.06
Bromoform	0.1
Cadmium	0.003
Carbofuran	0.007
Carbon tetrachloride	0.004
Chlorate	0.7
Chlordane	0.0002
Chloramines	0.5 - 1.5
Chloride	200 - 300
Chlorine	5
Chlorite	0.7
Chloroform	0.3
Chlorotoluron	0.03
Chlorpyrifos	0.03
Chromium	0.05
Colour in drinking water	No visible colour

Copper	2.0
Cyanazine	0.0006
Cyanide	0.07
1,2-Dichlorobenzene	1.0
1,4-Dichlorobenzene	0.3
1,2-Dichloroethane	0.03
Dichloromethane	0.02
2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid	0.03
DDT and metabolites	0.001
Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	0.008
1,2-Dichloroethylene	0.05
1,2-Dichloropropane	0.04
Dimethonate	0.006
1,4-Dioxane	0.05
Dissolved oxygen	No health-based guideline value is recommended
Edetic acid (EDTA)	0.6
Endrin	0.0006
Epichlorohydrin	0.0004
Ethylbenzene	0.3
Fenoprop	0.009
Fluoride	1.5
Hexachlorobutadiene	0.0006
Iron	No health-based guideline value is proposed
Isoproturon	0.009
Lead	0.01
Lindane	0.002
Manganese	0.4
Mercury	0.006
Methoxychlor	0.02
Metolachlor	0.01
Microcystin-LR	0.001
Molinate	0.006
Molybdenum	0.07
Monochloroacetate	0.02
<i>N</i> -Nitrosodimethylamine	0.0001
Nickel	0.07
Nitrate	50
Nitrilotriacetic acid (NTA)	0.2

Nitrite	3
Pendimethalin	0.02
Pentachlorophenol	0.009
Permethrin	0.3
pH	No health-based guideline value is proposed
Pyriproxyfen	0.3
Selenium	0.01
Simazine	0.002
Sulphate	No health-based guideline value has been derived
Styrene	0.02
Terbutylazine	0.007
Tetrachloroethylene	0.04
Toluene	0.7
Total dissolved solids (TDS)	No health-based guideline value is proposed
Trichloroacetate	0.2
Trichloroethylene	0.02
2,4,6,-Trichlorophenol	0.2
Trifluralin	0.02
Trutuim	10000 Bq/L
Uranium	0.015
Vinyl chloride	0.0003
Xylenes-total	0.5
Zinc	No health-based guideline value is proposed