

NEW MEXICO BUREAU OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES / NEW MEXICO TECH
 801 LEROY PLACE, SOCORRO, NM 87801
 PH: 575-835-5160 FAX: 575-835-6333

WATER QUALITY STANDARDS AND HEALTH ADVISORIES from US EPA and the State of New Mexico
 (updated May 2016)

Guidelines for comparison only!

All values are in mg/L. (milligrams per liter = parts per million)

PARAMETER	DRINKING WATER ⁽¹⁾	GROUND WATER ⁽²⁾	SURFACE WATER Domestic Water Supply ⁽³⁾	STOCK ⁽³⁾	IRRIGATION ^(2, 3)
Chloride	250 (s)	250			
Sulfate	250 (s)	600			
Nitrate as NO ₃	45 (e)	45	45		
Nitrite as NO ₂	3.3 (e)				
Fluoride	4 (e), 2.0 (s)	1.6			
Sodium (4)	20***				
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	500 (s)	1000			500* no effects 500-1000* affects sensitive crops 1000-2000* affects many crops 2000-5000* only for tolerant crops
Hardness **	0-75 = soft 75-150 = moderately hard 150-300 = hard >300 = extremely hard				
pH	6.5 to 8.5 (s)	6 to 9			
TRACE METALS					
Aluminum	0.05 to 0.2 (s)				5.0
Antimony	0.006 (e)		0.006		
Arsenic	0.01 (e)	0.1	0.01	0.2	0.1
Barium	2 (e)	1.0	2.0		
Beryllium	0.004 (e)		0.004		
Boron	7 (ha)			5.0	0.75
Cadmium	0.005 (e)	0.01	0.005	0.05	0.01
Chromium (total)	0.1 (e)	0.05	0.1	1.0	0.1
Cobalt				1	0.05
Copper	1.3 (g, AL), 1.0 (s)	1.0	1.3	0.5	0.2
Iron	0.3 (s)	1.0			
Lead	0.015 (AL)	0.05	0.015	0.1	5
Manganese	0.05 (s), 0.3 (lha)	0.2			
Mercury (inorganic)	0.002 (e)	0.002	0.002	0.01	
Molybdenum	0.2 (ha)				1.0
Nickel	0.7 (ha)		0.7		0.2
Selenium	0.05 (e)	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.13
Silver	0.1 (s), 0.2 (ha)	0.05			
Thallium	0.002 (e)		0.002		
Uranium	0.03 (e)	0.03	5		
Vanadium				0.1	0.1
Zinc	5 (s), 10 (ha)	10.0	10.5	25	2

References:

- USEPA, 2012 Edition of the Drinking Water Standards and Health Advisories, April 2012
<http://water.epa.gov/action/advisories/drinking/upload/dwstandards2012.pdf>
- New Mexico standards for groundwater of 10,000 mg/l TDS or less (20.6.2 NMAC) --
<http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/gwb/documents/2062NMAC-Amended2014.pdf>
- New Mexico water quality standards for interstate and intrastate surface waters (20.6.4 NMAC) --
<http://www.nmcp.state.nm.us/nmac/parts/title20/20.006.0004.pdf>
- For general sodium info: http://water.epa.gov/action/advisories/drinking/upload/2003_03_05_support_cc1_sodium_dwreport.pdf
 New Mexico Dept. of Health: <https://nmtracking.org/water> or 505-827-0006
 Other useful information is available at <https://www.erams.com/wqtool/>

Key:

- (s) - secondary drinking water regulation, nonenforceable guideline regarding cosmetic or aesthetic effects
- (e) - maximum contaminant level (MCL); an enforceable standard for the highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water
- (ha) - USEPA health advisory of acceptable drinking water levels for a chemical substance based on health effects information, expressed as a drinking water equivalent level (DWEL)
- (lha) - USEPA health advisory of acceptable drinking water levels for a chemical substance based on health effects information, expressed as a lifetime health advisory
- (g) - USEPA maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG); a conservative non-enforceable health benchmark goal
- (AL) - USEPA action level for lead and copper in tap water, related to corrosion of household plumbing --
<http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/dwb/contaminants/documents/LeadFactSheet.pdf>

* Recommendation only.
 ** Provided for reference only, not an official standard or advisory.
 *** EPA guidance level for individuals restricted to a total sodium intake of 500 mg/day (see reference 4 above).