

RESEARCHS ON WATER QUALITY CHARACTERISTICS OF WATER AND WASTEWATER

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The first problem with water is rather obvious: a source of water must be found. Secondly, when accessible water is found it must be suitable for human consumption. Meeting the water needs of those that populate earth is an on-going challenge. New approaches to meeting these water needs will not be easy to implement: economic and institutional structures still encourage the wasting of water and the destruction of ecosystems.

EPA has also issued guidelines to the states with regard to secondary drinking water standards. These appear in Table 1. These guidelines apply to drinking water contaminants that may adversely affect the aesthetic qualities of the water such as odor and appearance. These qualities have no known adverse health effects, and thus secondary regulations are not mandatory. However, most drinking water systems comply with the limits, they have learned through experience that the odor and appearance of drinking water is not a problem until customers complain. One thing is certain they will complain.

Table 1

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels		
Contaminant	Level	Adverse Effect
Chloride	250mg/L	Causes taste
Color	15cu*	Appearance problems
Copper	1mg/L	Tastes and odors

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