



FACT SHEET

WATER ANALYSIS

Issue September 2022

Sample Collection

For Irrigation Chemical analysis:

Use a clean 500 mL plastic container. Please label the bottle prior to sample collection. The bottle should be filled with no air pocket. This can be achieved by gently squeezing the bottle whilst screwing on the lid, so the water oozes out the top. Secure the lid firmly & deliver to the laboratory the same day. Freezing may be necessary if delivery is delayed.

Drinking water analysis:

Sample into a sterile container, preferably one from this laboratory.

Please sample from a tap that the water is likely to be consumed from.

Please label the bottle, including the date and time of sampling, and then fill the bottle leaving only a small air pocket at the top. Deliver to the laboratory as soon as possible, as analysis must commence within 24 hours of sampling.

Do not freeze or allow sample to get warm, as this will affect bacteria numbers.

* Please only sample and submit for testing Monday to Wednesday. Samples won't be accepted Thursday and Friday.

Drinking water guidelines:

- Thermotolerant coliforms (or alternatively, *E.coli*) should NOT be found in drinking water.
- Heterotrophic bacterial counts may indicate any degradation in water treatment efficacy.

Most common analyses:

Irrigation Suite: Our most common suite for water quality (excluding drinking) includes:

pH, Electrical conductivity/salt, Iron, Hardness, Calcium, Magnesium, Sodium and Sodium adsorption ratio.

Drinking Water Suite: Testing for bacteria to ascertain if water is suitable for drinking purposes.

Potability consists of both the above (chemical and microbiological)

Effluent Water Suite: please contact the laboratory if you have environmental monitoring needs. Contact our dedicated team in the NATA accredited laboratories to answer any of your questions.





Test	Guidelines	Typical Values in Australian Drinking water
pH *This guideline is based on the need to reduce corrosion and encrustation in pipes and fittings, it is not based on health concerns.	<6.5 corrosive 6.5-8.5 desirable > 8 decreases the efficiency of chlorination	6-10.8
EC (mS/m)	< 250 ok for human consumption	varies
Salinity (mg/L)	< 375 desirable 375-750 acceptable taste >750 scaling, corrosion, taste issues.	varies
Iron (mg/L)	< 0.3 desirable > 0.3 can cause stained laundry and fittings, taste, odour, corrosion and blockages	0.1mg/L (can be up to 4mg/L)
Hardness (mg/L)	< 60mg/L soft but corrosive 60-200mg/L good 200-500mg/L scaling problems > 500 severe scaling	5-380mg/L
Sodium (mg/L)	< 180 taste threshold	50mg/L (between 3-300mg/L)
Thermotolerant Coliforms	0 thermotolerant coliforms should be found in drinking water	0

*Table adapted from Australian Drinking Water Guidelines NHMRC 2004

Result Interpretation

- The results provided by this Laboratory are based on the sample or samples provided, in the condition and quality as delivered to the Laboratory.
- Whilst every effort is made to help you make the most use of the results we produce, we are a testing facility only and do not provide interpretation or advice in relation to these results.

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