

# What's in Your Water?

**EMPACT keeps you up-to-date  
on your water quality**

For more information visit the following  
web sites:

[www.cityoftucson.org/water](http://www.cityoftucson.org/water)

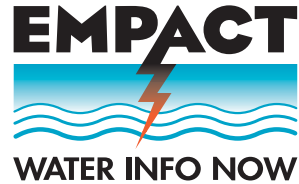
Tucson Water

[www.adeq.state.az.us](http://www.adeq.state.az.us)

Arizona Department  
of Environmental Quality

[www.epa.gov/water](http://www.epa.gov/water)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
- Water Page



The following substances, commonly  
found in water, are monitored and  
reported regularly by Tucson Water's  
Water Quality Division.

The EMPACT Program helps to make  
this water quality information readily  
available to citizens.



## Mineral Content

This is the measure of the amount of total dissolved solids (minerals) in drinking water. The level of dissolved minerals in your drinking water averages about 275 milligrams/liter (mg/L)\*. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) secondary standard for total dissolved solids is 500 mg/L\*.

## Hardness

This is the amount of calcium and magnesium in drinking water that determines how hard it is. Hardness levels in your drinking water average about 121 mg/L\*. Water in this range is defined as moderately hard. Currently, USEPA has not set a standard for hardness.

## Sodium

This naturally occurring mineral is found in varying amounts in drinking water around Tucson and averages about 40 mg/L\*. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recommends a daily sodium intake of no more than 2400 milligrams.

## pH

The pH of water measures the water's balance of acids and bases. pH levels in your drinking water average about 7.8 Standard Units. The USEPA's secondary standard for pH is between 6.5 and 8.5 Standard Units.

## Coliform Bacteria

These bacteria are naturally present in the environment and generally do not present a health threat in themselves, but are used to indicate the overall bacterial quality of drinking water. Coliform bacterial levels in your drinking water are extremely low, and are rarely found in our water. The USEPA's primary standard for water systems like Tucson Water that collect more than 40 samples per month is no more than 5% total coliform positive samples per month.

## Chlorine Residual

This is a measure of the free available chlorine in drinking water. Chlorine is used worldwide to maintain continuous disinfection throughout water distribution systems. Its use ensures the water is free of bacteria and safe to drink. Free chlorine residual levels in your drinking water average about 0.8 mg/L\*. USEPA's primary standard for free chlorine in drinking water is 4 mg/L\*.

## Fluoride

This is a naturally occurring chemical found in Tucson's drinking water. Fluoride levels in your drinking water average 0.4 mg/L\*. USEPA's primary standard for fluoride in drinking water is 4 mg/L\*.

## Nitrate as Nitrogen

Nitrate can occur in drinking water from both natural sources and human activities such as fertilizer use, munitions manufacturing, and septic systems. Nitrate as Nitrogen levels in your drinking water average about 1.8 mg/L\*. USEPA's primary standard for nitrate as nitrogen in drinking water is 10 mg/L\*.

## Trihalomethanes

Trihalomethanes (THM) are the composite sum of the chemicals chloroform, bromoform, chlorodibromomethane, and bromodichloromethane that are formed when chlorine is added to water that contains dissolved organic material. THM levels in your drinking water average about 2.5 micrograms per liter (ug/L)\*\*. USEPA's primary standard for THM in drinking water is 80 ug/L\*\*.

\* One milligram per liter is the same as one part per million. To give you an idea of how small an amount this is, it's the same as 1 teaspoon in 1,320 gallons.

\*\*One microgram per liter is the same as one part per billion, and is the equivalent of one teaspoon in 1.3 million gallons.