Milwaukee
Water Works

Water Quality Basics for Milwaukee Makers

Milwaukee's water quality makes for happy fish and tasty homebrew. We offer this information to those of you who use Milwaukee tap water for brewing beer and coffee, steeping tea, to fill aquariums, for photofinishing, cooking, baking and every activity that requires consistently pure, high-quality water. These data reflect water quality monitoring results from January 1 – December 31, 2019. These data and more can be found in our annual Consumer Confidence Report at milwaukee.gov/WaterConsumerConfidenceReport.

Typical Values for Milwaukee Water

Parameter	Unit	Median value	Range
Alkalinity (as $CaCO_3$)	mg L^{-1}	105	101 – 123
Alkalinity (as HCO_3^-)	mg L^{-1}	92	89 – 108
Calcium	mg L^{-1}	35	34 – 37
Chloride	mg L^{-1}	15.0	9.4 – 38.0
Chlorine*	mg L^{-1}	1.11	0.34 – 1.67
Conductivity	µS cm^-	320	310 – 320
Fluoride	mg L^{-1}	0.50	0.07 – 0.66
Hardness (as total $CaCO_3$)	mg L^{-1}	140	130 – 140
Hardness	mM (gpg)	8.2	7.6 – 8.2
Iron	mg L^{-1}	0.04	0.02 – 0.10
Magnesium	mg L^{-1}	11.5	11 – 12
Nitrate (as nitrogen)	mg L^{-1}	0.33	0.24 – 0.49
pH	-log[H^+]	7.62	7.40 – 8.03
Potassium	mg L^{-1}	1.4	1.4 – 1.4
Sodium	mg L^{-1}	9.6	9.1 – 10.0
Sulfate	mg L^{-1}	27.2	21.1 – 33.5
Temperature	°F (°C)	52.3 (11.3)	33.3 – 72.0 (0.7 – 22.2)
Total dissolved solids	mg L^{-1}	178	146 – 225

Unit	Definition
°F (°C)	degrees Fahrenheit (degrees Celsius)
mg L^{-1}	milligrams per liter = ppm = parts per million
µS cm^{-1}	micro Siemens per centimeter
mM (gpg)	mM = millimolar = millimoles per liter; (grains per gallon)
-log[H^+]	negative base 10 logarithm of hydrogen ion concentration
Chlorine*	reported as total chloramine residual