



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

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Water Quality Standards Reference Table

Any water quality result that exceeds the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) listed does not meet standards. Secondary contaminants are related to aesthetics rather than health. These tests are required for new Individual Water Systems (IWS) applications and at Time of Sale for homes served by an IWS.

Contaminant	Standards/MCL	All tests required unless specified below
Bacteriological – Total coliform (presence / absence)	Exceeded if Total Coliform or E. Coli are present.	
Aluminum	1,000 µg/L (1.0 mg/L)	
Antimony	6 µg/L	
Arsenic	10 µg/L (0.010 mg/L)	
Barium	1,000 µg/L (1.0 mg/L)	
Beryllium	4 µg/L	
Cadmium	5 µg/L	
Chloride	SMCL = 250 mg/L (secondary, aesthetic)	Required for wells in the Coastal Zone or when County requests due to known risks.
Chromium, Total	50 µg/L	

Contaminant	Standards/MCL	All tests required unless specified below
Chromium, Hexavalent (Cr-VI)	10 µg/L (0.010 mg/L)	County requires Cr-VI testing in areas South of Valencia Creek.
Conductivity (Specific conductance)	No primary MCL – monitored as an aesthetic/indicator parameter.	Conductivity is required for wells in the Coastal Zone and when the County requests it due to known water quality risks.
Fluoride	2,000 µg/L (2.0 mg/L)	
Iron	SMCL = 300 µg/L (secondary)	
Manganese	SMCL = 50 µg/L (secondary)	
Mercury (inorganic)	2 µg/L	
Nickel	100 µg/L	
Nitrate (as N)	10 mg/L (as N)	
Nitrite (as N)	1 mg/L (as N)	
Selenium	50 µg/L	
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	SMCL / recommended value = 500 mg/L (secondary/aesthetic guideline)	TDS monitoring is required in Coastal Zone wells and when County requests.
Thallium	2 µg/L	