MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVELS AND REGULATORY DATES
FOR DRINKING WATER
U.S. EPA VS CALIFORNIA
LAST UPDATED OCTOBER 2018

Contaminant	U.S. EPA		California	
	MCL (mg/L)	Date[a]	MCL (mg/L)	Effective Date
Inorganics				
Aluminum	0.05 to 0.2[b]	1/91	1 0.2[b]	2/25/89 9/8/94
Antimony	0.006	7/92	0.006	9/8/94
Arsenic	0.05 0.010	eff: 6/24/77 eff: 1/23/06	0.05 0.010	77 11/28/08
Asbestos	7 MFL[c]	1/91	7 MFL[c]	9/8/94
Barium	1 2	eff: 6/24/77 1/91	1	77
Beryllium	0.004	7/92	0.004	9/8/94
Cadmium	0.010 0.005	eff: 6/24/77 1/91	0.010 0.005	77 9/8/94
Chromium	0.05 0.1	eff: 6/24/77 1/91	0.05	77
Copper	1.3[d]	6/91	1[b] 1.3[d]	77 12/11/95
Cyanide	0.2	7/92	0.2 0.15	9/8/94 6/12/03
Fluoride	4 2[b]	4/86 4/86	2	4/98
Lead	0.05[e] 0.015[d]	eff: 6/24/77 6/91	0.05 [e] 0.015[d]	77 12/11/95
Mercury	0.002	eff: 6/24/77	0.002	77
Nickel	Remanded		0.1	9/8/94
Nitrate	(as N) 10	eff: 6/24/77	(as N03) 45	77
Nitrite (as N)	1	1/91	1	9/8/94
Total Nitrate/Nitrite (as N)	10	1/91	10	9/8/94
Perchlorate	-	-	0.006	10/18/07
Selenium	0.01 0.05	eff: 6/24/77 1/91	0.01 0.05	77 9/8/94
Thallium	0.002	7/92	0.002	9/8/94
Radionuclides				
Uranium	30 ug/L	12/7/00	20 pCi/L 20 pCi/L	1/1/89 6/11/06
Combined Radium - 226+228	5 pCi/L	eff: 6/24/77	5 pCi/L 5 pCi/L	77 6/11/06
Gross Alpha particle activity (excluding radon & uranium)	15 pCi/L	eff: 6/24/77	15 pCi/L 15 pCi/L	77 6/11/06
Gross Beta particle activity	4 millirem/yr	eff: 6/24/77	50 pCi/L[f] 4 millirem/yr	77 6/11/06
Strontium-90	8 pCi/L	eff: 6/24/77 now covered by Gross Beta	8 pCi/L[f] 8 pCi/L[f]	77 6/11/06
Tritium	20,000 pCi/L	eff: 6/24/77 now covered by Gross Beta	20,000 pCi/L[f] 20,000 pCi/L[f]	77 6/11/06

Contaminant	U.S. EPA		California	
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VOCS				
Benzene	0.005	6/87	0.001	2/25/89
Carbon Tetrachloride	0.005	6/87	0.0005	4/4/89
1,2-Dichlorobenzene	0.6	1/91	0.6	9/8/94
1,4-Dichlorobenzene	0.075	6/87	0.005	4/4/89
1,1-Dichloroethane	-	-	0.005	6/24/90
1,2-Dichloroethane	0.005	6/87	0.0005	4/4/89
1,1-Dichloroethylene	0.007	6/87	0.006	2/25/89
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene	0.07	1/91	0.006	9/8/94
trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene	0.1	1/91	0.01	9/8/94
Dichloromethane	0.005	7/92	0.005	9/8/94
1,3-Dichloropropene	-	-	0.0005	2/25/89
1,2-Dichloropropane	0.005	1/91	0.005	6/24/90
Ethylbenzene	0.7	1/91	0.68	2/25/89
			0.7	9/8/94
			0.3	6/12/03
Methyl-tert-butyl ether (MTBE)	-	-	0.005[b]	1/7/99
			0.013	5/17/00
Monochlorobenzene	0.1	1/91	0.03	2/25/89
			0.07	9/8/94
Styrene	0.1	1/91	0.1	9/8/94
1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane	-	-	0.001	2/25/89
Tetrachloroethylene	0.005	1/91	0.005	5/89
Toluene	1	1/91	0.15	9/8/94
1,2,4 Trichlorobenzene	0.07	7/92	0.07	9/8/94
			0.005	6/12/03
1,1,1-Trichloroethane	0.200	6/87	0.200	2/25/89
1,1,2-Trichloroethane	0.005	7/92	0.032	4/4/89
			0.005	9/8/94
Trichloroethylene	0.005	6/87	0.005	2/25/89
Trichlorofluoromethane	-	-	0.15	6/24/90
1,1,2-Trichloro-1,2,2-Trifluoroethane	-	-	1.2	6/24/90
Vinyl chloride	0.002	6/87	0.0005	4/4/89
Xylenes	10	1/91	1.750	2/25/89

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SOCS				
Alachlor	0.002	1/91	0.002	9/8/94
Atrazine	0.003	1/91	0.003	4/5/89
			0.001	6/12/03
Bentazon	-	-	0.018	4/4/89
Benzo(a) Pyrene	0.0002	7/92	0.0002[b]	9/8/94
Carbofuran	0.04	1/91	0.018	6/24/90
Chlordane	0.002	1/91	0.0001	6/24/90
Dalapon	0.2	7/92	0.2	9/8/94
Dibromochloropropane	0.0002	1/91	0.0001	7/26/89
			0.0002	5/3/91
Di(2-ethylhexyl)adipate	0.4	7/92	0.4	9/8/94
Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	0.006	7/92	0.004	6/24/90
2,4-D	0.1	eff: 6/24/77	0.1	77
	0.07	1/91	0.07	9/8/94
Dinoseb	0.007	7/92	0.007	9/8/94
Diquat	0.02	7/92	0.02	9/8/94
Endothall	0.1	7/92	0.1	9/8/94
Endrin	0.0002	eff: 6/24/77	0.0002	77
	0.002	7/92	0.002	9/8/94
Ethylene Dibromide	0.00005	1/91	0.00002	2/25/89
			0.00005	9/8/94
Glyphosate	0.7	7/92	0.7	6/24/90
Heptachlor	0.0004	1/91	0.00001	6/24/90
Heptachlor Epoxide	0.0002	1/91	0.00001	6/24/90
Hexachlorobenzene	0.001	7/92	0.001	9/8/94
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	0.05	7/92	0.05	9/8/94
Lindane	0.004	eff: 6/24/77	0.004	77
	0.0002	1/91	0.0002	9/8/94
Methoxychlor	0.1	eff: 6/24/77	0.1	77
	0.04	1/91	0.04	9/8/94
			0.03	6/12/03
Molinate	-	-	0.02	4/4/89
Oxamyl	0.2	7/92	0.2	9/8/94
			0.05	6/12/03
Pentachlorophenol	0.001	1/91	0.001	9/8/94
Picloram	0.5	7/92	0.5	9/8/94
Polychlorinated Biphenyls	0.0005	1/91	0.0005	9/8/94
Simazine	0.004	7/92	0.010	4/4/89
			0.004	9/8/94
Thiobencarb	-	-	0.07	4/4/89
			0.001[b]	4/4/89
Toxaphene	0.005	eff: 6/24/77	0.005	77
	0.003	1/91	0.003	9/8/94
1,2,3- Trichloropropane	-	-	5×10^{-6}	12/14/17
2,3,7,8-TCDD (Dioxin)	3×10^{-8}	7/92	3×10^{-8}	9/8/94
2,4,5-TP (Silvex)	0.01	eff: 6/24/77	0.01	77
	0.05	1/91	0.05	9/8/94

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Disinfection Byproducts				
Total Trihalomethanes	0.100	11/29/79 eff: 11/29/83	0.100	3/14/83
	0.080	eff: 1/1/02 [g]	0.080	6/17/06
Haloacetic acids (five)	0.060	eff: 1/1/02 [g]	0.060	6/17/06
Bromate	0.010	eff: 1/1/02 [g]	0.010	6/17/06
Chlorite	1.0	eff: 1/1/02 [g]	1.0	6/17/06
Treatment Technique				
Acrylamide	TT[h]	1/91	TT[h]	9/8/94
Epichlorohydrin	TT[h]	1/91	TT[h]	9/8/94

a. "eff." indicates the date the MCL took effect; any other date provided indicates when US EPA established (i.e., published) the MCL.
b. Secondary MCL.
c. MFL = million fibers per liter, with fiber length > 10 microns.
d. Regulatory Action Level; if system exceeds, it must take certain actions such as additional monitoring, corrosion control studies and treatment, and for lead, a public education program; replaces MCL.
e. The MCL for lead was rescinded with the adoption of the regulatory action level described in footnote d.
f. Gross beta MCL is 4 millirem/year annual dose equivalent to the total body or any internal organ; Sr-90 MCL = 4 millirem/year to bone marrow; tritium MCL = 4 millirem/year to total body
g. Effective for surface water systems serving more than 10,000 people; effective for all others 1/1/04.
h. TT = treatment technique, because an MCL is not feasible.