

Water Quality Basics for Hobbyists

Milwaukee's water quality is excellent for hobbyists. The following general information will be helpful if you use Milwaukee tap water for brewing, in your aquarium, for home photofinishing, and other activities that require consistently high quality water.

Typical Finished Water Values

Parameter	Median Value	Range
Alkalinity	100 mg/L (as CaCO ₃)	90-110 ppm
Calcium	35 mg/L	27-37 mg/L
Chlorine Residual*	0.95 mg/L	0.3-1.3 mg/L
Conductivity	305 uS/cm	280-350 uS/cm
Fluoride	0.85 mg/L	0.3-1.2 mg/L
Hardness	7.5 grains per gallon	7-9 grains per gallon
Hardness	127 mg/L (as CaCO ₃)	117-146 mg/L
Iron	0.02 mg/L	0.002-0.32 ppm
Nitrate, as N	0.3 mg/L	0.2-0.7 mg/L
pH	7.45	7.2-7.9
Potassium	1.2 mg/L	0.8-1.4 mg/L
Sodium	7.6 mg/L	6-12 mg/L
Temperature	58°F	32°-70°F
Total Dissolved Solids	177 mg/L	125-195 mg/L
Turbidity	< 0.4 NTU	0.1-1.0 NTU

Definitions

< = "is less than"

mg/L = milligrams per liter = ppm = parts per million

gpg = grains per gallon

NTU = nephelometric turbidity units

uS/cm = microsiemens per centimeter

* As total chloramine residual

For more information, please see www.water.mpw.net, About MWW, Water Quality or call the Milwaukee Water Works Water Quality section, (414) 286-2585.

The Milwaukee Water Works is recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the American Water Works Association as a leader in providing the highest quality drinking water and in monitoring water quality. The city-owned utility treats Lake Michigan for the benefit of 860,000 people in 16 communities in southeastern Wisconsin.