

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, 2021. 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	105	98-118
Alkalinity (as HCO ₃ ⁻)	mg/L	128	120-144
Calcium	mg/L	34	33 – 34
Chloride	mg/L	15.0	9.4 – 38.0
Chlorine*	mg/L	1.54	1.26-1.73
Conductivity	µS/cm	305	305-390
Fluoride	mg/L	0.63	0.09-0.82
Hardness (as total CaCO ₃)	mg/L	130	130 – 140
Hardness	mM (gpg)	7.6	7.6 – 8.2
Iron	mg/L	0.03	0.02 – 0.10
Magnesium	mg/L	12	11 – 12
Nitrate (as nitrogen)	mg/L	0.36	0.32 – 0.39
pH		7.66	7.43 – 8.04
Potassium	mg/L	1.5	1.5 – 1.5
Sodium	mg/L	9.8	9.8 – 9.8
Sulfate	mg/L	25	24 – 25
Temperature	°F (°C)	50.1 (10.1)	32.0-73.6 (0.0 –23.1)
Total dissolved solids [#]	mg/L	185	175-195
Unit	Definition		
°F (°C)	degrees Fahrenheit (degrees Celsius)		
mg/L	milligrams per liter = ppm = parts per million		
µS/cm	micro Siemens per centimeter		
mM (gpg)	mM = millimolar = millimoles per liter; (grains per gallon)		
Chlorine*	reported as total chloramine residual		
Total dissolved solids [#]	Calculated from total solids and total suspended solids		