



SECONDARY DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS

Richard Winters | Circuit Rider

I thought I would take a moment to talk about Secondary Drinking Water Contaminants. So, what are these contaminants? Below is a link with a brief description:

<https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/drinking-water-regulations-and-contaminants>

National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations (NSDWRs) NSDWRs (or secondary standards) are non-enforceable guidelines regulating contaminants that may cause cosmetic effects (such as skin or tooth discoloration) or aesthetic effects (such as taste, odor, or color) in drinking water. EPA recommends secondary standards to water systems but does not require systems to comply with the standard. However, states may choose to adopt them as enforceable standards.

Here is a list of Secondary Contaminants:

LIST OF NATIONAL SECONDARY DRINKING WATER REGULATIONS

Contaminant	Secondary Standard
Aluminum	0.05 to 0.2 mg/L
Chloride	250 mg/L
Color	15 (color units)
Copper	1.0 mg/L
Corrosivity	noncorrosive
Fluoride	2.0 mg/L
Foaming Agents	0.5 mg/L
Iron	0.3 mg/L
Manganese	0.05 mg/L
Odor	3 threshold odor number
pH	6.5-8.5
Silver	0.10 mg/L
Sulfate	250 mg/L
Total Dissolved Solids	500 mg/L
Zinc	5 mg/L

NATIONAL SECONDARY DRINKING WATER REGULATIONS (NSDWRs)

While secondary standards are not federally enforceable, EPA requires a special notice for exceedance of the fluoride secondary standard of 2.0 mg/L. Community water systems that exceed the fluoride secondary standard of 2 mg/L, but do not exceed the primary standard of 4.0 mg/L for fluoride, must provide public notice to persons served no later than 12 months from the day the water system learns of the exceedance (40 CFR 141.208).

There are also Contaminants that are under consideration at this time to possibly be regulated and here is a web-site where info about these can be found: <https://www.epa.gov/ccl/basic-information-ccl-and-regulatory-determination#what-is-CCL>

UNREGULATED DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS

These contaminants which, at the time of publication, are not subject to any proposed or promulgated national primary drinking water regulation (NPDWRs), are known or anticipated to occur in public water systems, and may require regulations under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

This subject could go on for a very long time and this is just a starting point for you to start to get to know where the regulations might be headed as well as a starting point for you to find information on the subject. Till next time stay safe and be well. 💧💧💧