

Specific Conductance

Specific conductance (mmhos) is a measurement of total dissolved solids (TDS). An approximation to the total dissolved solids may be obtained by multiplying the specific conductance by a factor of approximately .60. It is a measure of the total chemical content of the water which may have influence on the acceptability of the water in general, and a high level could be an indication of the presence of an excessive concentration of some specific substance that would be aesthetically objectionable to the customer. Excessive hardness, taste, mineral deposition or corrosion are common properties of highly mineralized water. Treatment is generally not practical but distillation, reverse osmosis, electrodialysis, or ionic exchange might be applicable in rare instances, although generally not for normal household use.

Specific Conductance					
Quality (1)	Concentration (2)	Effect (3)	Significance (4)	Treatment (5)	Disclosure
Good	0-900 (mmhos)	No known health risk Generally acceptable	Indication of total solids (Sp. Cond x .6 equals TDS in mg/l)	Non required.	None
Marginal	900-1500	No known health risk Encrustation possible May be unacceptable in some ways; such as taste, hardness.	Higher levels cause encrustation, particularly in hot water equipment pipes.	Treatment generally not practical on small systems.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5*

Poor	> 1500	Generally unacceptable due to high hardness. Excessive mineral deposition due to high total solids or poor taste. Health risks depend on components.	High total solids make water extremely encrusting in hot water. Not recommended for modern homes with water using appliances.	Rarely practical- reverse osmosis, electro dialysis, ion exchange, or distillation possible- lime soda softening in large systems to remove calcium and magnesium.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5*
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* Specific cause should be identified and addressed.