

## Sulfate

The presence of the sulfate ion in drinking water can have a laxative effect, but this problem is most commonly noted by newcomers and casual users of water high in sulfate. Users generally become acclimated from effects after drinking these waters in a relatively short time. One study indicated that water containing more than 750 mg/l of sulfate showed a laxative effect on newcomers but water supplies with less than 600 mg/l did not. A limit of 250 mg/l of sulfate is based on a reasonable factor of safety against drinking water that might cause a laxative effect. The taste standard for sulfate would probably be in the range of 300-400 mg/l

<b>Sulfate</b>					
<b>Quality (1)</b>	<b>Concentration (2)</b>	<b>Effect* (3)</b>	<b>Significance (4)</b>	<b>Treatment (5)</b>	<b>Disclosure</b>
<b>Good</b>	0-250 mg/l	Seldom any laxative effects. No known health risks.	Adds to total solids.	Not indicated.	None
<b>Marginal</b>	250-600 mg/l	Occasionally laxative effects- particularly newcomers. May have noticeable taste in this range.	Generally in combination with other elements that can contribute to encrustation and high solids problems.	Not indicated.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
<b>Poor</b>	> 600 mg/l	Laxative effect. Noticeable taste.	Affects taste and increases total solids.	Not indicated. (see specific conductance)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5