

Water



State Water Quality Standards Summary: Washington



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The reader should consult the water quality standards of a particular State for exact regulatory language applicable to that State. Copies of State water quality standards may be obtained from the State's Water Pollution Control Agency or its equivalent.

Additional information may also be obtained from the:

Standards Branch
Criteria and Standards Division (WH-585)
Office of Water Regulations and Standards
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, D.C. 20460
202-475-7315

This document may be obtained only from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) at the following address:

National Technical Information Service
5285 Front Royal Road
Springfield, Virginia 22161
703-487-4650

The NTIS order number is: PB89-142178.

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Responsible Agency:
Department of Ecology

State Contact:

Olympia

98504

Standards Available From:

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206-459-6000 Fee: no Mailing List: yes

State Narrative Language For: Antidegradation

The antidegradation policy of the state of Washington, as generally guided by chapter 90.48 RCW Water Pollution Control Act, and chapter 90.54 RCW, Water Resources Act of 1971, is stated as follows:

- (a) Existing beneficial uses shall be maintained and protected and no further degradation which would interfere with or become injurious to existing beneficial uses will be allowed.
- (b) No degradation will be allowed of waters lying in national parks, recreation areas, wildlife refuges, scenic rivers, and other areas of national ecological importance.
- (c) Whenever waters are of higher quality than the criteria assigned for said waters, the existing water quality shall be protected and waste and other materials and substances shall not be allowed to enter such waters which will reduce the existing quality thereof, except, in those instances where:
 - (i) It is clear that overriding considerations of the public interest will be served, and
 - (ii) All wastes and other material and substances proposed for discharge into the said waters shall be provided with all known, available, and reasonable methods of treatment before discharge.
- (d) Whenever the natural conditions of said waters are of a lower quality than the criteria assigned, the natural conditions shall constitute the water quality criteria.
- (e) The criteria established in WAC 173-201-045 through 173-201-085 may be modified on a short-term basis when necessary to accommodate essential activities, respond to emergencies, or to protect the public interest.
- (f) In no case, will any degradation of water quality be allowed if this degradation interferes with or becomes injurious to existing water uses and causes long-term and irreparable harm to the environment.
- (g) No waste discharge permit will be issued which will violate established water quality criteria for the said waters, except, as provided for under WAC 173-201-035(8)(e).

State Narrative Language For: Toxics

Toxic, radioactive, or deleterious material concentrations shall be below those of public health significance, or which may cause acute or chronic toxic conditions to the aquatic biota, or which may adversely affect any water use.

Deleterious concentrations of toxic, or other nonradioactive materials, shall be determined by the department in consideration of the Quality Criteria for Water, published by USEPA 1976, and as revised, as the authoritative source for criteria and/or other relevant information, if justified.

State Narrative Language For: Free From

Aesthetic values shall not be impaired by the presence of materials or their effects, excluding those of natural origin, which offend the senses of sight, smell, touch, or taste.

State Narrative Language For: Mixing Zones

The total area and/or volume of a receiving water assigned to a dilution zone shall be as described in a valid discharge permit as needed and be limited to that which will:

- (a) Not cause acute mortalities of sport, food, or commercial fish and shellfish species of established biological communities within populations or important species to a degree which damages the ecosystem.

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(b) Not diminish aesthetic values or other beneficial uses disproportionately.

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Classifications:

Class AA (Extraordinary)

- (a) General Characteristic. Water quality of this class shall markedly and uniformly exceed the requirements for all or substantially all uses.
- (b) Characteristic Uses. Characteristic uses shall include, but are not limited to, the following: (i) Water supply (domestic, industrial, agricultural); (ii) Stock watering; (iii) Fish & Shellfish including: salmonid migration, rearing, spawning, and harvesting; other fish migration, rearing, spawning & harvesting; Clam, oyster, & mussel rearing, spawning, and harvesting; Crustaceans & other shellfish rearing, spawning, and harvesting. (iv) Wildlife habitat: (v) Recreation (primary contact recreation, sport fishing, boating, & aesthetic enjoyment). (vi) Commerce and navigation

Class A (Excellent)

- (a) General Characteristic. Water quality of this class shall meet or exceed the requirements for all or substantially all uses.
- (b) Characteristic Uses. Characteristic uses shall include, but are not limited to, the following: (i) Water supply (domestic, industrial, agricultural); (ii) Stock watering; (iii) Fish and shellfish as described in: Class AA; (iv) Wildlife habitat: (v) Recreation (primary contact recreation, sport fishing, boating, and aesthetic enjoyment). (vi) Commerce and navigation.

Class B (Good)

- (a) General Characteristic. Water quality of this class shall meet or exceed the requirements for most uses.
- (b) Characteristic Uses. Characteristic uses shall include, but are not limited to the following: (i) Water supply industrial and agricultural. (ii) Stock watering. (iii) Fish and shellfish as described in Class AA. (iv) Wildlife habitat. (v) Recreation: (secondary contact recreation, sport fishing, boating, and aesthetic enjoyment.) (vi) Commerce and navigation.

Class C (Fair)

- (a) General Characteristic. Water quality of this class shall meet or exceed the requirements of selected and essential uses.
- (b) Characteristic Uses. Characteristic uses shall include, but not be limited to, the following: (i) water supply (industrial). (ii) Fish (salmonid and other fish migration). (iii) Recreation (secondary contact recreation, sport fishing, boating, and aesthetic enjoyment). (iv) Commerce and navigation.

Lake Class

- (a) General Characteristic. Water quality of this class shall meet or exceed the requirements for all or substantially all uses.
- (b) Characteristic Uses. Characteristic uses for waters of this class shall include, but are not limited to, the following: (i) Water supply (domestic, industrial, agricultural). (ii) Stock watering. (iii) Fish and shellfish, as described in Class AA. (iv) Wildlife habitat. (v) Recreation (primary contact recreation, sport fishing, boating, and aesthetic enjoyment.) (vi) Commerce and navigation.

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	All Classes	Class AA	Class A	Class B
Physical				
pH				
Upper Value		8.5	8.5	8.5
Lower Value		6.5	6.5	6.5
Secondary Upper Limit		8.5	8.5	8.5
Dissolved Oxygen				
Lower Value		9.5 mg/L	8.0 mg/L	6.5 mg/L
Temperature				
Upper Value		16.0 C	18.0 C	21.0 C
Secondary Upper Limit		13.0 C	16 C	19.0 C
Temperature Change				
Upper Value		Narr.	Narr.	Narr.
Turbidity				
Upper Value		Narr.		Narr.
Nutrients				
Toxic Metals				
Pesticides				
Organics				
Bacteria				
Fecal Coliform				
Upper Value		Narr.	Narr.	Narr.

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	Class C	Lake Class
Physical		
pH		
Upper Value	9.0	Narr.
Lower Value	6.5	
Dissolved Oxygen		
Upper Value	mg/L	Narr.
Lower Value	4.0 mg/L	
Temperature		
Upper Value	24.0 C	Narr.
Secondary Upper Limit	22.0 C	
Temperature Change		
Upper Value	Narr.	
Turbidity		
Upper Value	Narr.	Narr.
Nutrients		
Toxic Metals		
Pesticides		
Organics		
Bacteria		
Fecal Coliform		
Upper Value	Narr.	Narr.

