

Water



State Water Quality Standards Summary: Florida



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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

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Standards Available From:

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State Narrative Language For: Antidegradation

Pollution which causes or contributes to new violations of water quality standards or to continuation of existing violations is harmful to the waters of this state and shall not be allowed. The quality of water which exceeds the minimum quality necessary to support the designated use of those waters shall be protected and enhanced.

Because activities outside the State sometimes cause pollution of Florida's waters, the Department will make every reasonable effort to have such pollution abated.

Water quality standards apply equally to and shall be uniformly enforced in both the public and private sector.

The Department finds that excessive nutrients (total nitrogen and total phosphorus) constitute one of the most severe water quality problems facing the state. It shall be the Department policy to limit the introduction of man-induced nutrients into the waters of the State. Particular consideration shall be given to the protection from further nutrient enrichment of waters which are presently high in nutrient concentrations and sensitive to further nutrient loadings. Also, particular consideration shall be given to the protection from nutrient enrichment of those waters presently containing very low nutrient concentrations less than 0.3 mg/L total nitrogen or less than 0.04 mg/L total phosphorus.

The Commission recognizing the complexity of water quality management and the necessity to temper regulatory actions with the realities of technological progress and the social and economic wellbeing of people, urges, however that there be no compromise where discharges of pollutants constitute a valid hazard to human health.

State Narrative Language For: Toxics

Minimum criteria for surface waters:

All surface waters of the State shall at all times at all places be free from:

Domestic, industrial, agricultural, or other man-induced non-thermal components of discharges which, alone or in combination with other components of discharges (whether thermal or non-thermal):

- (a) Are acutely toxic; or
- (b) Are present in concentrations which are carcinogenic, mutagenic, or teratogenic to human beings or to significant, locally occurring, wildlife or aquatic species; or
- (c) Pose a serious danger to the public health, safety, or welfare.

General criteria for toxic substances (applied to all surface waters except within zones of mixing):

Substances in concentrations which injure, are chronically toxic to, or produce adverse physiological or behavioral response in humans, animals, or plants - none shall be present.

State Narrative Language For: Free From

All surface waters of the State shall at all places and at all times be free from: Domestic, industrial, agricultural, or other man-induced non-thermal components of discharges which alone or in combination with other substances or in combination with other components of discharges (whether thermal or non-thermal);

- A. Settle to form putrescent deposits or otherwise create a nuisance; or
- B. Float as debris, scum, oil, or other matter in such amounts as to form nuisances; or

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- C. Produce color, odor, taste, turbidity, or other conditions in such degree as to create a nuisance; or
- D. Are acutely toxic; or
- E. Are present in concentrations which are carcinogenic, mutagenic, or teratogenic to human beings or to significant, locally occurring, wildlife or aquatic species; or
- F. Pose a serious danger to the public health, safety, or welfare.

State Narrative Language For: Mixing Zones

(1) Zones of mixing for non-thermal components of discharges.

(a) The Department may allow the water quality adjacent to a point of discharge to be degraded to the extent that only the minimum conditions described in Section 17-3.051(1), Florida Administrative Code, apply within a limited, defined region known as the mixing zone. Under certain circumstances defined elsewhere in this section, a mixing zone may be allowed so as to provide an opportunity for mixing and thus to reduce the costs of treatment. However, no mixing zone or combination of mixing zones shall be allowed to significantly impair any of the designated uses of the receiving body of water.

(b) A zone of mixing shall be determined based on consideration of the following:

1. The condition of the receiving body of water including present and future flow conditions and present and future sources of pollutants.
2. The nature, volume and frequency of the proposed discharge of waste including any possible synergistic effects with other pollutants or substances which may be present in the receiving body of water.
3. The cumulative effect of the proposed mixing zone and other mixing zones in the vicinity.

Please refer to the "EPA Water Quality Criteria Summaries: A Compilation of State/Federal Criteria" for additional mixing zone language for Florida.

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Classifications:

Potable Water
Supplies
Class I

Shellfish Propaga-
tion or Harvesting
Class II

This class is a saltwater category.

Rec., Prop. & Maint.
of a Healthy Well-
balanced Population
Class III

Recreation, propagation and maintenance of a healthy well-balanced population of fish and wildlife. Standards listed in this class apply to fresh and saltwater, and are different for some parameters. Numeric criteria followed by an "M" apply to saltwater, those followed by an "F" apply to fresh water.

Agricultural
Water Supplies
Class IV

Navigation, Utility
and Industrial Use
Class V

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	All Classes	Potable Water Class I	Shellfish Propa.. Class II	Rec., Prop. & M.. Class III
Physical				
pH				
Upper Value	8.5			
Lower Value	6.0			
Dissolved Oxygen				
Lower Value		5 mg/L	4 mg/L	5 F mg/L
Temperature				
Upper Value	Narr.			
Temperature Change				
Upper Value	Narr.			
Turbidity				
Upper Value	Narr.			
Total Dissolved Solids				
Upper Value		1000 mg/L		
Nutrients				
Ammonia				
Upper Value		0.02 mg/L		0.02 mg/L
Nitrate				
Upper Value		10.0 mg/L as N		
Phosphorus (elemental)				
Upper Value			0.1 ug/L	0.1 M ug/L
Toxic Metals				
Arsenic				
Upper Value	0.05 mg/L			
Cadmium				
Upper Value		0.8 ug/L	3.0 ug/L	0.8 F ug/L
Secondary Upper Limit		1.2 ug/L	ug/L	1.2 M ug/L
Copper				
Upper Value	0.5 mg/L	30 ug/L	0.015 mg/L	.015 M mg/L
Secondary Upper Limit	mg/L	ug/L	mg/L	0.03 F mg/L
Cyanide				
Upper Value	5.0 ug/L			
Iron				
Upper Value		0.3 mg/L	0.3 mg/L	1.0 F mg/L
Secondary Upper Limit		mg/L	mg/L	0.3 M mg/L
Lead				
Upper Value		0.03 mg/L		0.03 F mg/L
Mercury				
Upper Value		0.2 ug/L	0.1 ug/L	0.1 M ug/L
Secondary Upper Limit		ug/L	ug/L	0.2 F ug/L
Zinc				
Upper Value	1.0 mg/L	0.03 mg/L		0.03 F mg/L
Barium				
Upper Value		1 mg/L		
Beryllium				
Upper Value		0.011 mg/L		0.011 mg/L
Secondary Upper Limit		1.10 mg/L		1.10 mg/L

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	All Classes	Potable Water Class I	Shellfish Propa.. Class II	Rec., Prop. & M.. Class III
Manganese				
Upper Value			0.1 mg/L	
Nickel				
Upper Value		0.1 mg/L	0.1 mg/L	0.1 mg/L
Selenium				
Upper Value		0.01 mg/L	0.025 mg/L	0.025 mg/L
Silver				
Upper Value		0.07 ug/L	0.05 ug/L	0.07 F ug/L
Secondary Upper Limit		ug/L	ug/L	0.05 M ug/L
Pesticides				
Aldrin & Dieldrin				
Upper Value		0.003 ug/L	0.003 ug/L	0.003 ug/L
Chlordane				
Upper Value		0.01 ug/L	0.004 ug/L	0.01 F ug/L
Secondary Upper Limit		ug/L	ug/L	.004 M ug/L
2-4 D				
Upper Value		100 ug/L		
2,4,5-TP				
Upper Value		10 ug/L		
DDT				
Upper Value		0.001 ug/L	0.001 ug/L	0.001 ug/L
Demeton				
Upper Value		0.1 ug/L	0.10 ug/L	0.10 ug/L
Endosulfan				
Upper Value		0.003 ug/L	0.001 ug/L	.003 F ug/L
Secondary Upper Limit		ug/L	ug/L	.001 M ug/L
Endrin				
Upper Value		0.004 ug/L	0.004 ug/L	0.004 ug/L
Guthion				
Upper Value		0.01 ug/L	0.01 ug/L	0.01 ug/L
Heptachlor				
Upper Value		0.001 ug/L	0.001 ug/L	0.001 ug/L
Lindane				
Upper Value		0.01 ug/L	0.004 ug/L	0.01 F ug/L
Secondary Upper Limit		ug/L	ug/L	.004 M ug/L
Malathion				
Upper Value		0.10 ug/L	0.10 ug/L	0.10 ug/L
Methoxychlor				
Upper Value		0.03 ug/L	0.03 ug/L	0.03 ug/L
Mirex				
Upper Value		0.001 ug/L	0.001 ug/L	0.001 ug/L
Parathion				
Upper Value		0.04 ug/L	0.04 ug/L	0.04 ug/L
Toxaphene				
Upper Value		0.005 ug/L	0.005 ug/L	0.005 ug/L
Organics				
Phenols				
Upper Value	1.0 ug/L			

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	All Classes	Potable Water Class I	Shellfish Propa.. Class II	Rec., Prop. & M.. Class III
Phthalate Esters				
Upper Value		0.003 ug/L		3.0 ug/L
PCBs				
Upper Value		0.001 ug/L	0.001 ug/L	0.001 ug/L
Bacteria				
Fecal Coliform				
Upper Value		Narr.	Narr.	Narr.
Total Coliform				
Upper Value		Narr.	Narr.	Narr.

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	Agricultural Class IV		Navigation, Uti.. Class V
Physical			
Dissolved Oxygen			
Lower Value	3.0	mg/L	2.0
			mg/L
Nutrients			
Toxic Metals			
Iron			
Upper Value	1.0	mg/L	
Mercury			
Upper Value	0.2	ug/L	0.2
			ug/L
Beryllium			
Upper Value	0.1	mg/L	
Secondary Upper Limit	0.5	mg/L	
Boron			
Upper Value	0.75	mg/L	
Nickel			
Upper Value	0.1	mg/L	
Pesticides			
Organics			
Bacteria			

