



Saskatchewan  
Ministry of  
Environment



## Drinking Water Quality and Compliance

The Water Security Agency and Ministry of Environment require that at least once each year waterworks owners provide notification to consumers of the quality of water produced and supplied as well as information on the performance of the waterworks in submitting samples as required by a Minister's Order or Permit to Operate a waterworks. The following is a summary of the **City of Swift Current** water quality and sample submission compliance record for **2025**. This report was completed on **March 4, 2026**. Readers should refer to Saskatchewan Water Security Agency's [Municipal Drinking Water Quality Monitoring Guidelines, June 2015, EPB 502](#) for more information on minimum sample submission requirements. Permit requirements for a specific waterworks may require more sampling than outlined in the department's monitoring guidelines. If consumers need more information on the nature and significance of specific water tests, for example, "what is the significance of selenium in a water supply", more detailed information is available from: [http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/pubs/water-eau/index\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/pubs/water-eau/index_e.html).

### Water Quality Standards

#### Bacteriological Quality

Parameter/Location	Limit	Regular Sample Required	Regular Samples Submitted	# of Positive Regular Submitted (Percentage)
Total Coliform and E. coli	0 organisms/100 mL	208	208	0%
Background Bacteria	Less than 200 organisms/100 mL	208	208	0%

*The owner/operator is responsible for ensuring that one hundred percent of all bacteriological samples are submitted as required. Generally, analysis is performed on a single sample for all parameters mentioned above. All waterworks are required to submit samples for bacteriological water quality; the frequency of monitoring depends on the population served by the waterworks.*

#### Water Disinfection – Chlorine Residual for Test Results Submitted with Bacteriological Samples

Parameter	Minimum Limit (mg/L)	Free Chlorine Residual Range	Total Chlorine Residual Range	# Tests Required	# Tests Submitted	# Adequate Chlorine (%)
Chlorine Residual in Distribution System	0.1 mg/L free OR 0.5 mg/L total	0.27 – 2.10 mg/L	0.57 – 2.37 mg/L	208	208	100%

*A minimum of 0.1 milligrams per litre (mg/L) free chlorine residual **OR** 0.5 mg/L total chlorine residual is required at all times throughout the distribution system unless otherwise approved. A proper chlorine submission is defined as a bacteriological sample submission form with both the free and total chlorine residual fields filled out. An adequate chlorine is a result that indicates that the chlorine level is above the regulated minimums. An adequate chlorine may be counted even if the chlorine results were submitted incorrectly. A waterworks is required to submit chlorine residual test results on every bacteriological sample they submit.*

**Water Disinfection – Free Chlorine Residual for Water Entering Distribution System – From Water Treatment Plant Records**

Parameter	Limit (mg/L)	Test Level Range	# Tests Performed	# Tests Not Meeting Requirements
Free Chlorine Residual	at least 0.1	0.37 – 5.00 mg/L	Continuous	0

*A minimum of 0.1 milligrams per litre (mg/L) free chlorine residual is required for water entering the distribution system. Tests are normally performed on a daily basis by the waterworks operators and are to be recorded in operation records. This data includes the number of free chlorine residual tests performed, the overall range of free chlorine residual (highest and lowest recorded values) and the number of tests and percentage of results not meeting the minimum requirement of 0.1 mg/L free chlorine residual.*

**Turbidity**

Parameter	Limit (NTU)	Test Level Range	# Tests Not Meeting Requirements	Maximum Turbidity (NTU)	# Tests Required	# Tests Submitted
Turbidity	1.0	0.011 – 0.299 NTU	0	0.299	Continuous	Continuous

*Turbidity is a measure of water treatment efficiency. Turbidity measures the “clarity” of the drinking water and is generally reported in Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU). All waterworks are required to monitor turbidity at the water treatment plant. The frequency of measurement varies from daily for small systems, to continuous for larger waterworks.*

**Chemical – Trihalomethanes (THMs) and Haloacetic Acids (HAAs)**

Parameter	Limit (mg/L)	Sample Result (average)	# Samples Required	# Samples Submitted
Trihalomethanes	0.100	0.0726 mg/L	8 (one every 3 months)	8
Haloacetic Acids	0.080	0.0601 mg/L	8 (one every 3 months)	8

*Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids are generated during the water disinfection process by a by-product of reactions between chlorine and organic material. Trihalomethanes are generally found only in drinking water obtained from surface water supplies. Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids are to be monitored on a quarterly basis and the Interim Maximum Acceptable Concentration is expressed as an average of 4 quarterly samples. Only water supplies derived from surface water or groundwater under the influence of surface water are required to monitor Trihalomethane and Haloacetic Acids unless otherwise specified in the waterworks permit to operate*

**Chemical – Health Category**

Parameter	MAC (mg/L)	IMAC (mg/L)	Aesthetic Objective (mg/L)	Sample Results (mg/L)	Samples Exceeding MAC/IMAC	# Samples Required	# Samples Submitted
Aluminum		No Objective		0.032 – 0.075	0	4	4
Antimony	0.006			<0.0002	0	4	4
Arsenic	0.010			0.0003 – 0.0007	0	4	4
Barium	1.0			0.033 – 0.045	0	4	4
Boron		5.0		0.05 – 0.06	0	4	4
Cadmium	0.005			<0.00001	0	4	4
Chromium	0.05			<0.0005	0	4	4
Copper			1.0	<0.0002 – 0.001	0	4	4
Fluoride (avg.*)	1.5			0.58	0	52	53
Iron			0.3	<0.0005 – 0.0012	0	4	4
Lead	0.01			<0.0001	0	4	4
Manganese			0.05	0.0027 – 0.011	0	4	4
Nitrate (avg.*)	45.0			0.475	0	4	4
Selenium	0.01			0.0002 – 0.0009	0	4	4
Silver		No Objective		<0.00005	0	4	4
Uranium	0.02			0.0007 – 0.0011	0	4	4
Zinc			5.0	0.0005	0	4	4

Substances within the chemical health category may be naturally occurring in drinking water sources or may be the result of human activities. These substances may represent a long-term health risk if the Maximum Acceptable Concentration (MAC) or Interim Maximum Acceptable Concentration (IMAC) is exceeded. All drinking water supplies are required to monitor for substances in the “Chemical-Health” category, the frequency of monitoring depends on the population served by the waterworks. Some waterworks add fluoride to drinking water as a means to aid in the prevention of dental decay.

\* Results expressed as average values for communities or waterworks which fluoridate drinking water supplies or those with elevated concentrations of fluoride or nitrates.

**Algal Toxins –Microcystin-LR**

Date of last sample: **October 14, 2025**

Parameter	Limit MAC (mg/L)	Sample Results	# Samples Exceeding MAC	# Samples Required	# Samples Submitted
Microcystin LR	0.0015	0.0002 mg/L	0	6	6

Microcystin LR is an algal toxin typically released following die-off on an algal bloom in a raw surface water supply. Samples should typically be collected and analyzed on a monthly basis during periods when algae blooms on reservoirs or other surface water sources occur.

**Chemical – Pesticides**

Parameter	Limit MAC(mg/L)	Limit IMAC (mg/L)	Sample Results	Samples Exceeding MAC/IMAC	# Samples Required	# Samples Submitted
Atrazine		0.005	<0.0002	0	1	1
Bromoxynil		0.005	<0.002	0	1	1
Carbofuran	0.09		<0.0002	0	1	1
Chlorpyrifos	0.09		<0.0002	0	1	1
Dicamba	0.12		<0.001	0	1	1
2,4-D*		0.1	<0.001	0	1	1
Diclofop-methyl	0.009		<0.001	0	1	1
Dimethoate		0.2	<0.005	0	1	1
Malathion	0.19		<0.0002	0	1	1
MCPA	0.10		<0.001	0	1	1
Pentachlorophenol	0.06		<0.002	0	1	1
Picloram		0.19	<0.001	0	1	1
Trifluralin		0.045	<0.0002	0	1	1

*Pesticides in drinking water may occur as a result of the use of these substances by humans. These substances may represent a long-term health risk if the Maximum Acceptable Concentration (MAC) or Interim Maximum Acceptable Concentration (IMAC) is exceeded. Mandatory sampling requirements depends on the population served by the waterworks.*

**Chemical – Cyanide and Mercury**Date of last sample: **May 20, 2025**

Parameter	Limit MAC (mg/L)	Sample Results	# Samples Exceeding MAC	# Samples Required	# Samples Submitted
Cyanide	0.2	0.001 mg/L	0	1	1
Mercury	0.001	<0.000001 mg/L	0	1	1

*Mercury enters water supplies naturally and as a result of human activities. Cyanide can enter source waters as a result of industrial effluent or spill events. These substances may represent a long-term health risk if the Maximum Acceptable Concentration (MAC) is exceeded. Mandatory sampling requirements depend on the population served by the waterworks.*

### General Chemical

Parameter	Aesthetic Objectives* (mg/L)	Sample Results (average)	# Samples Required	# Samples Submitted
Alkalinity	500	192 mg/L	4	4
Bicarbonate	No Objective	235 mg/L	4	4
Calcium	No Objective	75 mg/L	4	4
Carbonate	No Objective	0 mg/L	4	4
Chloride	250	10.4 mg/L	4	4
Conductivity	No Objective	924 µS/cm	4	4
Hardness	800	371 mg/L	4	4
Magnesium	200	45 mg/L	4	4
Potassium	No Objective	11 mg/L	4	4
PH	No Objective	7.48 pH Units	4	4
Sodium	300	68 mg/L	4	4
Sulphate	500	290 mg/L	4	4
Total dissolved solids	1500	734 mg/L	4	4

All waterworks serving more than 5000 persons are required to submit water samples for the General Chemical category as per their permit to operate. The General Chemical category includes analysis for alkalinity, bicarbonate, calcium, carbonate, chloride, conductivity, hardness (as CaCO<sub>3</sub>), magnesium, sodium, sulphate and total dissolved solids.

The last sets of quarterly samples for General Chemical analysis were required in the **4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2025** and were submitted on **December 2, 2025**. Sample results indicated that there were no exceedences of the provincial aesthetic objectives for the General Chemical category.

*\*Objectives apply to certain characteristics of or substances found in water for human consumptive or hygienic use. The presence of these substances will affect the acceptance of water by consumers and/or interfere with the practice of supplying good quality water. Compliance with drinking water aesthetic objectives is not mandatory as these objectives are in the range where they do not constitute a health hazards. The aesthetic objectives for several parameters (including hardness as CaCO<sub>3</sub>, magnesium, sodium and total dissolved solids) consider regional differences in drinking water sources and quality*

**Chemical – Synthetic Organic Chemicals**

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Limit MAC (mg/L)</b>	<b>Limit IMAC (mg/L)</b>	<b>Sample Result(s)</b>	<b># Samples Exceeding Limit</b>	<b># Samples Required</b>	<b># Samples Submitted</b>
Benzene	0.005		<0.0005 mg/L	0	1	1
Benzo(a)pyrene	0.00001		<0.00001 mg/L	0	1	1
Carbon tetrachloride	0.005		<0.002 mg/L	0	1	1
Dichlorobenzene, 1,2	0.02		<0.0005 mg/L	0	1	1
Dichlorobenzene, 1,4	0.005		<0.0005 mg/L	0	1	1
Dichloroethane, 1,2		0.005	<0.0005 mg/L	0	1	1
Dichloroethylene, 1,1	0.014		<0.0005 mg/L	0	1	1
Dichloromethane	0.05		<0.0005 mg/L	0	1	1
Dichlorophenol, 2,4	0.9		<0.0002 mg/L	0	1	1
Ethylbenzene	0.0024		<0.0005 mg/L	0	1	1
Monochlorobenzene	0.08		<0.0005 mg/L	0	1	1
Perfluorooctanoic Acid	0.0002		<0.000001 mg/L	0	1	1
Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid	0.0006		<0.000002 mg/L	0	1	1
Tetrachlorophenol, 2,3,4,6	0.1		<0.001 mg/L	0	1	1
Toluene	0.024		<0.0005 mg/L	0	1	1
Trichloroethylene	0.05		<0.0005 mg/L	0	1	1
Trichlorophenol, 2,4,6	0.005		<0.002 mg/L	0	1	1
Vinyl Chloride	0.002		<0.0005 mg/L	0	1	1
Xylene	0.3		<0.0005 mg/L	0	1	1

*Contamination of drinking water by synthetic organic chemicals only results from pollution events. Contamination of drinking water in excess of Maximum Acceptable Concentration (MAC) or Interim Maximum Acceptable Concentration (IMAC) may represent a health risk. Mandatory sampling requirements depend on the population served by the waterworks.*

**More information on water quality and sample submission performance may be obtained from:**

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