CLASSIFICATION AND CHARACTERISTICS OF WATER

For industrial use there is no accepted conventional classification of water. Rather, each industry usually develops a body of ideas applicable to its own water problems.[4] For heating and ventilating engineers, it is perhaps most convenient to distinguish between mineralized waters and condensates.

Mineralized Waters

All the waters found in streams, wells, lakes, and the ocean are mineralized. The same is true of all municipal supplies even though they may have been *treated*. For a given area, ground waters are likely to be more highly mineralized than are surface waters. Conversely, surface waters are more likely to be contaminated with municipal sewage and trade wastes. Virtually all mineralized waters also contain biological organisms.

TABLE 1. MINERAL ANALYSES TYPIFYING COMPOSITION OF WATERS AVAILABLE AND USED INDUSTRIALLY IN THE USA

Substance	Unit	Location or Area[a,b]								
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Silica	SiO_2	2	6	12	37	10	9	22	14	......
Iron	Fe	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	......
Calcium	Ca	6	5	36	62	92	96	3	155	400
Magnesium	Mg	1	2	8	18	34	27	2	46	1,300
Sodium	Na	2	6	7	44	8	183	215	78	11,000
Potassium	K	1	1	1	....	1	18	10	3	400
Bicarbonate	HCO_3	14	13	119	202	339	334	549	210	150
Sulphate	SO_4	10	2	22	135	84	121	11	389	2,700
Chloride	Cl	2	10	13	13	10	280	22	117	19,000
Nitrate	NO_3	1	....	0	2	13	0	1	3	......
Dissolved Solids	......	31	66	165	426	434	983	564	948	35,000
Carbonate Hardness	$CaCO_3$	12	11	98	165	287	274	8	172	125
Non-Carbonate Hardness	$CaSO_4$	5	7	18	40	58	54	0	295	5,900

[a] All values are parts per million of the unit cited to nearest whole number (see Reference 5).
[b] Numbers indicate location or area as follows:
(1) Catskill supply—New York City
(2) Swamp Water (Colored) Black Creek, Middleburg, Florida
(3) Niagara River (Filtered) Niagara Falls, New York
(4) Missouri River (Untreated) Average
(5) Well Waters—Public Supply—Dayton, Ohio—30-60 ft.
(6) Well Water—Maywood, Illinois—2090 ft.
(7) Well Water—Smithfield, Va.—330 ft.
(8) Well Water—Rosewell; N. Mexico
(9) Ocean Water—Average

Mineralogical Characteristics. The character and amount of extraneous inorganic materials—including deleterious gases—dissolved and suspended therein, describe the mineralogical characteristics of any water. Revealing such information is the function of a mineralogical chemical analysis.

The analyses in Table 1 disclose the composition of the public water supplies used by about 45 percent of the total population of the cities, in the United States, having more than 20,000 inhabitants.[5]

All values recorded are in terms of parts per million.* This is the approved standard terminology for reporting the results of mineral analyses.[6] Values reported in the other terms commonly used may be converted into the standard form by using the factors listed in Table 2.

*Parts per million are hereinafter abbreviated ppm. A part per million signifies a unit weight of material per million unit weights of the solution.

TABLE 2. CONVERSION FACTORS FOR WATER ANALYSES

To Convert	Into	Multiply by
Grains per U. S. gallon	ppm	17
Grains per Imperial gallon	ppm	14¼
Grams per liter	ppm	1000
Mg per liter	ppm	1

Data for dissolved gases or pH values have been omitted in Table 1 because even waters of the same mineral contents may vary widely in these respects. Unpolluted natural waters usually have pH values within the range 5 to 8, depending upon their *free* CO_2 contents. Polluted waters, which include those derived from wells or swamps in marshy ground, may have pH values well below 5.

Biological Characteristics. The slime-forming organisms are mostly lower plants, grouped by botanists into the Phylum Thallophyta. This group is distinguished by the absence of leaves, roots, or stems from the mosses, ferns, and seed plants which comprise the three other phyla of the plant kingdom.

The Thallophyta (see Table 3) are divided into algae, which can synthesize chlorophyll for the production of sugar, and the fungi which lack chlorophyll, and must therefore secure already synthesized carbohydrates.

All Thallophyta are of universal distribution and many of them are slime forming. Of the five divisions of algae, only three (the green, the blue-green, and the diatoms) are found in fresh water. Of the five divisions of fungi, all may occur in fresh water, the principal slime formers being indicated in Table 3.

The methods of analysis commonly used in the sanitary examination of a water have, as their principal object, to identify and count pathogens.

Most slime-forming organisms are not pathogens. When a water is subjected to a biochemical analysis for the purpose of evaluating its slime producing characteristics, tests, widely different from sanitary bacteriological tests, must be made. Tests upon the water itself are seldom satisfactory, and true indications of the sliming characteristics of a water can only be determined by the analysis of deposits on surfaces having a temperature close to the temperature of the final design equipment. The

TABLE 3. PRINCIPAL SLIME FORMERS

Phyla	Rough Division of Phyla
Algae	Single celled, sometimes forming slimy sheets. Many celled in either sheets or fronds.
Fungi	*Bacteria* (Schizomycetes) frequently forming slimy surface coatings. *Slime Molds* (Myxomycetes) forming slimy sheets as one stage of their life history. *Sac fungi* (Ascomycetes) of which one division, the yeasts, occasionally form slimy aggregates. The alga-like fungi (*Phycomycetes*) and the stalked fungi (Basidiomycetes) rarely form slimes but their filaments may hold together the slimes of other organisms.