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# Fact Sheet

ANALYSIS

## Analysis of water used for brewing



### Introduction

Water is one of the main ingredients used in brewing and its composition can significantly influence the flavour profile of a beer. For this reason, it is important to know what is in the water used for brewing.

**Calcium** and **magnesium** add hardness to water but they also positively contribute to the mouthfeel of beer and assist in biochemical processes during brewing. Other metals can also have either negative or positive effects on a brew.

Other ions in water such as **sulfates**, **chlorides** and **nitrates** also play a crucial role in the flavour of the final beer. Although small amounts of some of these ions may produce a favorable effect on the brew, too much can be a detriment and so knowing the levels present in your water is essential.

Other important aspects of water quality include its **alkalinity**, **total dissolved solids (TDS)** and **pH**. **Total alkalinity** (including carbonate and bicarbonate) can influence mash acidity and is therefore an important contributor to beer style.

### How should samples be submitted?

Water samples should be collected in clean (preferably new) low density polyethylene bottles. Bottles should be filled to the top and sealed tightly.



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## What are the costs for water analysis?

Analysis	Target response time	Volume required	Price per sample (ex. GST)
Chloride (mg/L Cl <sup>-</sup> )	24 hours	100 mL	\$17.85
Sulfate (mg/L)	24 hours	100 mL	\$17.85
Nitrate (mg/L)	24 hours	100 mL	\$17.85
pH	24 hours	25 mL	\$8.40
Metals (Na, K, Ca, Mg, Fe)	48 hours	15 mL	\$68.25
Total Hardness (including Ca and Mg)	48 hours	15 mL	\$63.00
Total alkalinity (including carbonate and bicarbonate)	48 hours	150 mL	\$21.00
Total dissolved solids (TDS)	24 hours	100 mL	\$11.00

To request a tailored quote for large sample numbers or analysis packages, please contact [commercialservices@awri.com.au](mailto:commercialservices@awri.com.au).

## Contact

For further information, please contact:

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