

PLANET



WATER QUALITY

Water quality refers to the physical, chemical, biological or taste-related characteristics of water, and it is a measure of water suitability for a given purpose or function. Because water is essential for all life, water quality is a material issue. Water quality affects the environment, public health and the economy. Water quality can have many impacts, as it is an important component for healthy ecosystems, a necessity for plant, animal and human life, and valued for recreation.

Within a production facility, water may be used for production (e.g., fabrication, washing, cooling, boiling, etc.), sanitation (of the facility, personnel and equipment), or as a raw material. Maintaining and improving the monitoring, recycling or disposal of water within a facility can be a significant byproduct of manufacturing.

On- or off-site, wastewater management and treatment is an essential element of most production processes and can be a significant operational cost. Evaluating and optimizing water use to reduce wastewater volume can be an important aspect of managing the treatment of wastewater to prevent pollution. Similarly, managing or treating wastewater with a goal of continued use is equally important. The specific choice of water quality parameters can vary depending on an organization's products, services and facility location(s).

Importance to the Animal Food Industry:

- Ensuring water quality is critical for the health and safety of animals and humans.
- Where management and environmental protection requirements are in place, regulatory compliance is an important element of wastewater management to avoid fines, legal penalties and reputational damage.
- Monitoring and managing water quality can lead to improvements in operational processes, reducing downtime caused by water-related issues and enhancing overall productivity.
- Effective water quality management helps identify potential risks and implement measures to mitigate them. This can prevent environmental incidents, reduce liability and ensure continuous, trouble-free operations.
- Managing water quality helps optimize water use, reduce waste and ensure that water resources are used efficiently. This can lead to cost savings and more sustainable operations.
- Companies that actively manage and document their water quality efforts can build a positive reputation among consumers, investors and other stakeholders.

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