

## Total Hardness (As CaCO<sub>3</sub>)



Soft ↔ Hard ↔ Very Hard

### TOTAL HARDNESS

Colorimetric test strips.

Testing for hardness in tap water is very common and is very quick and easy with these test strips. Hardness in water is usually composed of calcium and magnesium.

The color chart for this test allows you to read total hardness in mg/L or ppm.

This test reports calcium hardness concentrations in water at 0, 40, 80, 120, 180, 250, 425, 1000 mg/L or ppm.

Results are obtained from this test in 3 seconds.

## Background Information

**Total Hardness (TH)** is a measure of the total amount of calcium and magnesium that has naturally leached into the water during its journey through the watershed. In the U.S. water hardness is most often reported as milligrams per liter (mg/L) or parts per million (ppm) as calcium carbonate (CaCO<sub>3</sub>).

It is difficult to produce soap suds in water with high levels of calcium and magnesium ions, hence the term “hardness”.

In addition to reducing the effectiveness of soaps and detergents, hard water may cause an insoluble scale to form on fixtures and on the inside of pipes. Scale formation depends on several factors, one of which is pH.

The EPA does not regulate the levels of hardness in the water supply. There are, however, generally recognized levels that describe the amount of hardness in a water sample:

<b>Hardness as Calcium carbonate (ppm)</b>	<b>Classification</b>
0-60	Soft
61-120	Moderately Hard
121-180	Hard
>180	Very Hard