



The classification system describes the effects of increasing concentrations of each of the substances considered important for domestic use. The system uses a simple colour and number code ranging from ideal to unacceptable water quality.

The structure of the classification system describing the effects of the different classes of water on various domestic uses of water.

<b>B</b> <b>CLASS 0</b>	<b>Ideal Water Quality</b>	<b>Drinking Health:</b> No effects, suitable for many generations <b>Drinking Aesthetic:</b> Water is pleasing <b>Food preparation:</b> No effects <b>Bathing:</b> No effects <b>Laundry:</b> No effects
<b>G</b> <b>CLASS 1</b>	<b>Good Water Quality</b>	<b>Drinking Health:</b> Suitable for lifetime use. Rare instances of subclinical effects <b>Drinking Aesthetic:</b> Some aesthetic effects may be apparent <b>Food preparation:</b> Suitable for lifetime use <b>Bathing:</b> Minor effects on bathing or on bath fixtures <b>Laundry:</b> Minor effects on laundry or on fixtures
<b>Y</b> <b>CLASS II</b>	<b>Marginal Water Quality</b>	<b>Drinking Health:</b> May be used without health effects by the majority of individuals of all ages, but may cause effects in some individuals in sensitive groups. Some effects possible after lifetime use. <b>Drinking Aesthetic:</b> Poor taste and appearance are noticeable <b>Food preparation:</b> May be used without health or aesthetic effect by the majority of individuals. <b>Bathing:</b> Slight effects on bathing or on bath fixtures <b>Laundry:</b> Slight effects on laundry or on fixtures
<b>R</b> <b>CLASS III</b>	<b>Poor Water Quality</b>	<b>Drinking Health:</b> Poses a risk of chronic health effects, especially in babies, children and the elderly <b>Drinking Aesthetic:</b> Bad taste and appearance may lead to rejection of the water <b>Food preparation:</b> Poses a risk of chronic health effects, especially in children and the elderly. <b>Bathing:</b> Significant effects on bathing or on bath fixtures <b>Laundry:</b> Significant effects on laundry or on fixtures
<b>P</b> <b>CLASS IV</b>	<b>Unacceptable Water Quality</b>	<b>Drinking Health:</b> Severe acute health effects, even with short-term use <b>Drinking Aesthetic:</b> Taste and appearance will lead to rejection of the water <b>Food preparation:</b> Severe acute health effects, even with short-term use <b>Bathing:</b> Significant effects on bathing or on bath fixtures <b>Laundry:</b> Serious effects on laundry or on fixtures

Reference: DWAF (1998). Quality of domestic water supplies. Vol. 1: Assessment Guide. WRC No. TT 101/98, pp. 21.