

New York State River Classifications

(For more complete info, see *NY State Codes, Rules and Regulations Title 6, Chapter X, Parts 700-705*)

- Class A** Drinking, cooking, contact recreation (swimming), fishing, fish propagation and survival (aquatic life). (For information on Class AA-Special, Class A-Special and Class AA, see NY State publication above).
- Class B** Primary and secondary contact recreation, fishing, fish propagation and survival (aquatic life).
- Class C** Fishing, fish propagation and survival (aquatic life). Can be suitable for contact recreation, but may be limited.
- Class D** Fishing. Cannot support fish propagation due to natural conditions such as streambed and flow. Suitable for fish survival. Contact recreation may be limited.

New York State Water Quality Standards (for surface freshwater)

Parameter	Class	Standard	Guideline for a Healthy Stream
pH	A,B,C	Between 6.5-8.5	See standards.
	D	Between 6.0-9.0	
DO	A, B, C	Trout spawning (TS) ≥ 7.0 mg/L Trout waters (T) never < 5.0 mg/L, daily ave. 6.0 Non-trout, never < 4.0 mg/L, daily ave 5.0	
	D	≥ 3.0 mg/L	
Temperature		No standard	Trout, $\leq 70^{\circ}\text{F}$ (21.1 $^{\circ}\text{C}$) Non-trout, $< 80^{\circ}\text{F}$ (26.7 $^{\circ}\text{C}$)
Orthophosphate as PO_4 (divide by 3 for orthophosphate as P)		“None that will result in growths of algae, weeds, and slime that will impair uses” No numerical standard	> 0.15 mg/L impact likely > 0.3 mg/L impact certain (especially if slow moving area or upstream from lake)
Nitrate-nitrogen ($\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$)	A	≤ 10 mg/L	Natural levels generally < 1 mg/L
	B, C, D	“None that will result in growths of algae, weeds, and slime that will impair uses”	
Ammonia-nitrogen ($\text{NH}_3\text{-N}$)		No standard	Not to exceed 0.10 mg/L
Alkalinity		No Standard	0-5 mg/L endangered or critical 5-10 mg/L highly sensitive 10-20 mg/L sensitive 20 mg/L not sensitive
Chloride	A	≤ 250 mg/L	Natural levels generally < 50 mg/L
	B, C, D	No standard	
Conductivity	Freshwater	No standard	Generally 150-500 uS/cm, salt water much higher
Fecal Coliforms	A, B, C, D	Monthly geometric mean of at least 5 samples ≤ 200 colonies/100 ml	See standards.
Total Coliforms	A, B, C, D	Monthly median value from at least 5 samples $\leq 2,400$ colonies/100ml; and $> 20\%$ of the samples, from at least 5 samples $\leq 5,000$ colonies/100ml	
Turbidity	A, B, C, D	“No increase that will cause a substantial visible contrast to natural conditions”	
Suspended and settleable solids	A, B, C, D	“None from sewage, industrial wastes or other wastes that cause deposition or impair the waters for their best usages”	