

Unit 7: Water

Engineering Chemistry — DI01000071

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Water Quality · Hardness · Softening Methods
Boiler Feed Water · Desalination · Wastewater Treatment

Unit 7 Overview: Water

Topics Covered

- Water quality parameters
- DO, BOD, COD
- Hardness: types, units, causes
- Lime-soda process
- Zeolite/Permutit process
- Ion exchange process
- Reverse osmosis
- Boiler feed water treatment
- Desalination methods
- Municipal water treatment
- Sewage treatment

Exam Weightage

≈15% of paper

Frequently asked:

- Hardness numericals (ppm, mg/L, °F, °Cl)
- Lime-soda process reactions
- Zeolite process (regeneration)
- BOD vs COD distinction
- Reverse osmosis principle
- Boiler troubles (scale, priming)
- Drinking water treatment flowchart

Water Quality Parameters

Physical Parameters

- **Turbidity:** Suspended particles scattering light (NTU); drinking water <1 NTU
- **Color:** True (dissolved) vs apparent (suspended); Hazen units
- **Odour & taste:** H₂S (rotten egg), algal metabolites
- **Temperature:** Affects DO, reaction rates, aquatic life
- **TDS:** Total Dissolved Solids (mg/L); drinking water <500 mg/L

Chemical Parameters

- **pH:** 6.5–8.5 for drinking water
- **Hardness:** Ca²⁺, Mg²⁺ content (mg/L as CaCO₃)
- **Alkalinity:** OH⁻, CO₃²⁻, HCO₃⁻ content
- **Chloride:** <250 mg/L (taste threshold)
- **Nitrate:** <45 mg/L (infant methemoglobinemia risk)
- **Fluoride:** 0.6–1.5 mg/L (dental health)

DO, BOD and COD

Dissolved Oxygen (DO)

DO: Amount of O dissolved in water
Saturation: ~ 9 mg/L at 20°C , 1 atm

Significance:

- >6 mg/L: good for fish
- <4 mg/L: stressed aquatic life
- <1 mg/L: anaerobic (septic)

Reduced by: high temp, organic pollution, algal decay

BOD (Biochemical Oxygen Demand):

O consumed by microbes to decompose organic matter in water at 20°C in 5 days (BOD)

High BOD $\rightarrow$ high pollution

Clean water: <1 mg/L; sewage: 200–400 mg/L

COD (Chemical Oxygen Demand):

O equivalent of all oxidisable matter (organic + inorganic) using K Cr O

COD $>$ BOD always

Measures total oxidisable load faster (2 hrs vs 5 days)

BOD/COD ratio: $>0.6 \rightarrow$

biodegradable waste

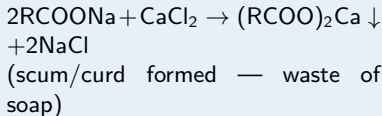
Hardness of Water: Definition & Types

Definition

Hardness: Property of water that prevents lathering with soap and causes scale in boilers

Caused by: Dissolved salts of Ca^{2+} and Mg^{2+}

Soap reaction:

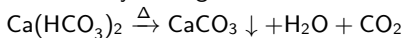


Types of Hardness:

Temporary hardness:

Caused by $\text{Ca}(\text{HCO}_3)_2$, $\text{Mg}(\text{HCO}_3)_2$

Removed by boiling:



Permanent hardness:

Caused by CaCl_2 , MgCl_2 , CaSO_4 , MgSO_4

Not removed by boiling

Removed by chemical/ion exchange methods

Total hardness = Temporary + Permanent

Units of Hardness & Interconversion

Hardness Units

ppm (mg/L): mg of CaCO_3 equivalent per litre

Degree French ($^{\circ}\text{F}$): $1^{\circ}\text{F} = 10 \text{ mg CaCO}_3 / \text{L}$

Degree Clark ($^{\circ}\text{Cl}$): $1^{\circ}\text{Cl} = 14.3 \text{ mg CaCO}_3 / \text{L}$

Degree German ($^{\circ}\text{d}$): $1^{\circ}\text{d} = 17.8 \text{ mg CaCO}_3 / \text{L}$

Equivalence:

$$1^{\circ}\text{Cl} = 1.43^{\circ}\text{F} = 0.8^{\circ}\text{d}$$

Conversion to CaCO_3 equivalents:

$$\text{Hardness (ppm)} = \frac{\text{Amount of salt (mg/L)} \times 100}{\text{Mol. wt. of salt}}$$

Example:

$\text{CaSO}_4 = 68 \text{ mg/L}$; $\text{MW} = 136$

$$\text{Hardness} = \frac{68 \times 100}{136} = 50 \text{ ppm}$$

Unit classification:

Soft	<75	ppm
Moderately hard	75–150	ppm
Hard	150–300	ppm
Very hard	>300	ppm

Hardness Numerical: Worked Example

Problem

Water contains: $\text{Ca}(\text{HCO}_3)_2 = 16.2 \text{ mg/L}$, $\text{MgCl}_2 = 19 \text{ mg/L}$, $\text{CaSO}_4 = 13.6 \text{ mg/L}$, $\text{MgSO}_4 = 12 \text{ mg/L}$

Find: (a) Temporary hardness (b) Permanent hardness (c) Total hardness in ppm and $^\circ\text{F}$

Solution: (MW: $\text{Ca}(\text{HCO}_3)_2 = 162$, $\text{MgCl}_2 = 95$, $\text{CaSO}_4 = 136$, $\text{MgSO}_4 = 120$)

Salt	mg/L	Formula	CaCO_3 equiv
$\text{Ca}(\text{HCO}_3)_2$	16.2	$\frac{16.2 \times 100}{162}$	10 ppm (temp)
MgCl_2	19.0	$\frac{19 \times 100}{95}$	20 ppm (perm)
CaSO_4	13.6	$\frac{13.6 \times 100}{136}$	10 ppm (perm)
MgSO_4	12.0	$\frac{12 \times 100}{120}$	10 ppm (perm)
Total			50 ppm

Temp. hardness = 10 ppm;

Perm. = 40 ppm; Total = 50 ppm

In $^\circ\text{F}$: $50/10 = 5^\circ\text{F}$

Lime-Soda Process for Water Softening

Reagents & Reactions

Lime $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$ removes:

- Free CO_2 : $\text{CO}_2 + \text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2 \rightarrow \text{CaCO}_3 \downarrow + \text{H}_2\text{O}$
- Temp. Ca^{2+} :
 $\text{Ca}(\text{HCO}_3)_2 + \text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2 \rightarrow 2\text{CaCO}_3 \downarrow + 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$
- Temp. Mg^{2+} :
 $\text{Mg}(\text{HCO}_3)_2 + 2\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2 \rightarrow 2\text{CaCO}_3 \downarrow + \text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2 \downarrow + 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$
- Perm. Mg^{2+} :
 $\text{MgCl}_2 + \text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2 \rightarrow \text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2 \downarrow + \text{CaCl}_2$

Soda Na_2CO_3 removes:

- Perm. Ca^{2+} : $\text{CaCl}_2 + \text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3 \rightarrow \text{CaCO}_3 \downarrow + 2\text{NaCl}$
- Perm. CaSO_4 :
 $\text{CaSO}_4 + \text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3 \rightarrow \text{CaCO}_3 \downarrow + \text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$

Process:

Cold or hot lime-soda

- **Cold:** $15\text{--}30^\circ\text{C}$; residual hardness $50\text{--}80$ ppm
- **Hot:** $80\text{--}100^\circ\text{C}$; residual hardness $15\text{--}25$ ppm

Advantages:

- Cheap reagents
- Large scale treatment
- Removes iron/manganese too

Disadvantages:

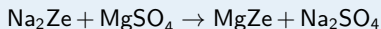
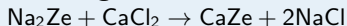
- Large sludge disposal
- Not suitable for very high hardness
- Requires skilled operation

Zeolite (Permutit) Process

Principle

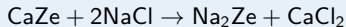
Zeolite: Sodium aluminosilicate ($\text{Na Al Si O} \cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O}$), represented as Na Ze

Softening:



$\text{Ca}^{2+}/\text{Mg}^{2+}$ replaced by Na^+ (no hardness)

Regeneration: Exhausted zeolite treated with 10% NaCl brine:



Advantages:

- Simple operation, no sludge
- Complete softening possible
- Regeneration is easy (NaCl)
- Compact equipment

Disadvantages:

- Cannot remove turbidity
- Cannot handle acidic water ($\text{pH} < 6$ destroys zeolite)
- Adds Na^+ — not suitable for cardiac patients
- High silica/turbid water clogs zeolite

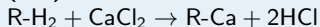
Synthetic: Dowex, Amberlite — sulfonated polystyrene resin zeolites

Ion Exchange (Deionization) Process

Process

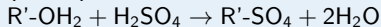
Water passed through two columns:

Column 1 — Cation exchanger (RH):



All cations (Ca^{2+} , Mg^{2+} , Na^+) replaced by H

Column 2 — Anion exchanger (R'OH):



All anions (Cl^- , SO_4^{2-} , HCO_3^-) replaced by OH

$\text{H}^+ + \text{OH}^- \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow$ **demineralized water**

Regeneration:

Cation resin: dilute HCl or H_2SO_4

Anion resin: dilute NaOH

Advantages:

- Produces ultra-pure water
- Removes all dissolved salts
- Used in pharmaceutical, electronic, boiler feed

Disadvantages:

- Expensive resins
- Frequent regeneration if high TDS
- Does not remove organics/bacteria

Reverse Osmosis (RO)

Principle

Osmosis: Water moves from low to high solute concentration through semipermeable membrane

RO: Apply pressure $>$ osmotic pressure on saline side $\rightarrow$ water forced through membrane $\rightarrow$ purified water collected

Membrane: Thin-film composite (TFC) — polyamide on polysulfone support; pore size $\sim 0.0001 \mu\text{m}$

Operating pressure: Brackish water: 5–20 bar; Seawater: 50–80 bar

What RO removes:

- Dissolved salts (TDS reduction $>95\%$)
- Bacteria, viruses
- Heavy metals (Pb, As, Hg)
- Nitrates, fluorides
- Organic compounds

Advantages:

- No chemicals required
- Compact, scalable
- Drinking water, desalination

Disadvantages:

- 30–50% water waste (reject stream)
- Membrane fouling
- Pre-treatment needed

Boiler Feed Water: Requirements & Problems

Requirements

Boiler feed water must be:

- Free from hardness (scale-forming salts)
- Low dissolved O (corrosion prevention)
- Low dissolved CO
- Low TDS (carry-over prevention)
- Neutral to slightly alkaline (pH 8–9)
- Free from suspended solids

Boiler Troubles

Scale/Sludge: Deposition of CaSO_4 , CaCO_3 on boiler walls → poor heat transfer → overheating → explosion risk

Priming: Carrying liquid water droplets with steam (due to dissolved salts/suspended matter → *foamy water*)

Foaming: Stable foam in boiler due to oil, alkali, organic matter

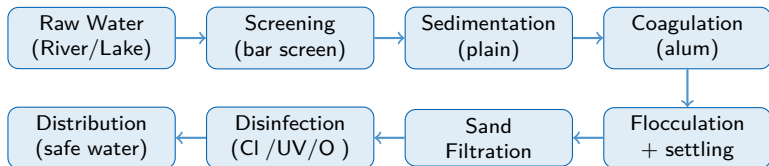
Caustic embrittlement: Leaks near rivets expose metal to NaOH → stress corrosion cracking

Corrosion: Dissolved O, CO attack boiler metal

Prevention of Boiler Troubles

Problem	Cause	Prevention/Treatment
Scale	CaSO_4 , CaCO_3 , Mg(OH)_2 deposition	Soften feed water; internal conditioning (NaPO_4 , tannin); blowdown
Sludge	Loose precipitates; MgCO_3 , Fe(OH)_3	Coagulants; frequent blowdown
Priming	High TDS, suspended matter, foamy water	Purify feed water; reduce boiler load; antifoam agents
Foaming	Oil, alkali, dissolved organics	Remove oil; control alkalinity (pH 8–9)
Caustic embrittlement	NaOH concentration in crevices	Add Na_2SO_4 (ratio $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4 : \text{NaOH} > 2.5$); rivet welding
O_2 corrosion	Dissolved O_2	Deaeration (heating); add hydrazine (NH_2NH_2) or sodium sulfite
CO_2 corrosion	Dissolved CO_2 in condensate	Add volatile amines (cyclohexylamine); mechanical deaeration

Municipal Drinking Water Treatment



Key steps explained:

- **Coagulation:** Alum $\text{Al}(\text{SO}) \rightarrow \text{Al}(\text{OH})$ gel adsorbs colloidal particles
- **Disinfection (chlorination):** $\text{Cl} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{HOCl} + \text{HCl}$; HOCl kills pathogens; residual Cl maintained 0.2–0.5 mg/L
- **Breakpoint chlorination:** Add Cl until all NH_3 oxidized + free Cl residual appears

Sewage Treatment Process

Primary Treatment

Screening: Bar/fine screens remove large solids

Grit chamber: Sand, grit settle out

Primary sedimentation: Organic suspended solids settle as primary sludge

Removes: 50–65% suspended solids, 30–40% BOD

Secondary Treatment

Biological: Microorganisms decompose dissolved organics

Trickling filter: Sewage sprinkled on stone bed with biofilm

Activated sludge: Sewage + returned activated sludge aerated in tank; bacteria degrade BOD

Secondary clarifier removes biomass
Removes: 85–95% BOD

Tertiary: Nutrient removal (N, P), advanced filtration, disinfection → reclaimed water

Desalination of Seawater

Thermal Methods

Multi-Stage Flash (MSF):

Seawater heated → flashed through successive chambers at decreasing pressure → steam condensed as fresh water

Energy intensive; large scale

Multi-Effect Distillation (MED):

Each effect uses latent heat from previous; more efficient than MSF

Vapour Compression (VC):

Steam compressed → condensed → heat reused

Membrane Methods

RO (Reverse Osmosis):

Most energy-efficient for seawater (50–80 bar); dominant technology today

Electrodialysis (ED):

Ion-selective membranes; DC voltage drives ions through membranes; best for brackish water (<5000 ppm TDS)

Comparison:

RO: 3–4 kWh/m³ (seawater)

MSF: 10–15 kWh/m³

Water Softening Methods: Comparison

Feature	Lime-Soda	Zeolite	Ion Exchange
Reagent	Ca(OH) ₂ + Na ₂ CO ₃	NaCl (regeneration)	HCl/H ₂ SO ₄ + NaOH
Removes	Ca ²⁺ , Mg ²⁺ , Fe, CO ₂	Ca ²⁺ , Mg ²⁺ only	All dissolved ions
Residual hardness	15–80 ppm	Nearly zero	Nearly zero (DM water)
Sludge	Yes (large)	No	No
Scale/turbidity	Also removes	Cannot handle	Cannot handle
Adds Na	No	Yes	No
Cost	Low	Moderate	High
Output water	Softened	Softened	Demineralized
Best use	Municipal, industrial	Domestic, industrial	Boiler feed, lab, pharma

Numerical: Lime-Soda Requirement

Worked Example

Problem: A water sample contains:

$\text{Ca}(\text{HCO}) = 32.4 \text{ mg/L}$ $\text{MgSO} = 24 \text{ mg/L}$ $\text{MgCl} = 19 \text{ mg/L}$

Find the amount of lime and soda required per litre.

Solution: (MW: $\text{Ca}(\text{HCO}) = 162$, $\text{MgSO} = 120$, $\text{MgCl} = 95$, $\text{Ca}(\text{OH}) = 74$, $\text{Na CO} = 106$)

Lime required:

For $\text{Ca}(\text{HCO})$: $\frac{32.4}{162} \times 74 = 14.8 \text{ mg/L}$

For MgSO : $\frac{24}{120} \times 74 = 14.8 \text{ mg/L}$

For MgCl : $\frac{19}{95} \times 74 = 14.8 \text{ mg/L}$

Total lime = 44.4 mg/L

Soda required:

For $\text{MgSO} \rightarrow$ produces CaSO : $\frac{24}{120} \times 106 = 21.2 \text{ mg/L}$

For $\text{MgCl} \rightarrow$ produces CaCl : $\frac{19}{95} \times 106 = 21.2 \text{ mg/L}$

Total soda = 42.4 mg/L

Boiler Scale: Formation & Harmful Effects

Scale-Forming Salts

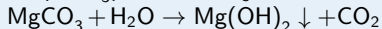
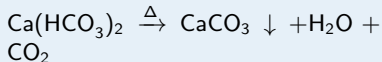
Hard scale (difficult to remove):

$\text{CaSO}_4 \leftarrow$ solubility decreases with temp

CaSiO_3 , MgSiO_3 — very hard

Soft scale (easier to remove):

CaCO_3 , Mg(OH)_2 , MgSiO_3



Effects of Scale:

- Thermal insulation: scale ($k \approx 0.1\text{--}2 \text{ W/mK}$) vs steel ($\approx 50 \text{ W/mK}$) $\rightarrow$ poor heat transfer
- Overheating of boiler walls $\rightarrow$ metal weakening
- Risk of explosion
- Increased fuel consumption
- Reduced boiler efficiency and lifespan

Scale Removal:

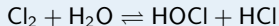
Mechanical scraping, acid pickling (2% HCl), EDTA chelation treatment

Internal Conditioning of Boiler Water

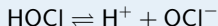
Problem	Chemical Added	Action
Scale (CaSO ₄ , CaCO ₃)	Sodium phosphate (Na ₃ PO ₄)	Forms soft, non-adherent Ca ₃ (PO ₄) ₂ sludge → removed by blowdown
Scale (general)	Sodium hexametaphosphate (calgon)	Sequestration — keeps Ca ²⁺ /Mg ²⁺ in solution as complex
Scale/sludge conditioning	Tannin, lignin	Sludge stays fluid and non-adherent
O ₂ corrosion	Hydrazine N ₂ H ₄	$\text{N}_2\text{H}_4 + \text{O}_2 \rightarrow \text{N}_2 + 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$; no TDS increase
O ₂ corrosion	Sodium sulfite Na ₂ SO ₃	$2\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_3 + \text{O}_2 \rightarrow 2\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$; low pressure boilers only
Caustic embrittlement	Sodium sulfate Na ₂ SO ₄	Ratio Na ₂ SO ₄ :NaOH > 2.5 fills crevices
Foaming/priming	Anti-foam agents (castor oil derivatives)	Breaks surface foam

Chlorination: Disinfection of Water

Chemistry of Chlorination



HOCl (hypochlorous acid) is the active germicide



At pH 6–7: HOCl dominant (more effective)

At pH > 8.5: OCl⁻ dominant (40× less effective)

Residual Cl: 0.2–0.5 mg/L maintained in distribution network

Breakpoint Chlorination:

As Cl dose increases:

1. Cl reacts with NH₃ → chloramines (combined Cl)
2. Chloramines oxidized → N at breakpoint
3. Beyond breakpoint: free Cl residual appears

Free Cl is 25× more effective than combined Cl

Alternatives to Cl :

Ozone (O₃) — powerful, no by-products, no residual

UV radiation — physical, no chemicals
Chloramine — longer residual, less THM formation

ClO₂ — effective against Cryptosporidium

Water Quality Standards & Water-Borne Diseases

Water-Borne Diseases

Disease	Pathogen
Cholera	Vibrio cholerae
Typhoid	Salmonella typhi
Hepatitis A	HAV virus
Polio	Poliovirus
Dysentery	Shigella / E. coli
Giardiasis	Giardia lamblia
Cryptosporidiosis	Cryptosporidium

BIS/WHO Drinking Water Standards

Parameter	Limit
pH	6.5–8.5
Turbidity	<1 NTU
TDS	<500 mg/L
Total hardness	<200 mg/L
Chloride	<250 mg/L
Fluoride	0.6–1.5 mg/L
Nitrate	<45 mg/L
Iron	<0.3 mg/L
Arsenic	<0.01 mg/L
Residual Cl	0.2–0.5 mg/L
Coliform	0 per 100 mL

Sludge Treatment & Disposal

Sludge from Treatment Plants

Primary sludge: Settled raw organics (high BOD)

Secondary sludge: Excess biomass from biological treatment (activated sludge)

Sludge digestion (anaerobic):

Methanogens convert organics → biogas (60–70% CH₄ + 30% CO₂)

Digested sludge: Stabilized, less odorous; can be used as fertilizer (biosolids)

Sludge Disposal Options:

- **Land application:** Biosolids as agricultural fertilizer (if heavy metal limits met)
- **Landfill:** Dewatered cake disposal
- **Incineration:** High energy; reduces volume 90%
- **Composting:** Combined with wood chips → soil amendment

Biogas utilization:

Biogas from sludge digestion powers treatment plant — typical plant can be 50–70% energy self-sufficient

Hardness Numericals: Practice Set

Problems

Q1. Find hardness in ppm if water contains $\text{CaCl} = 111 \text{ mg/L}$ and $\text{MgSO} = 60 \text{ mg/L}$.

$$\text{CaCl} : \frac{111 \times 100}{111} = 100 \text{ ppm}; \text{MgSO} : \frac{60 \times 100}{120} = 50 \text{ ppm}; \text{Total} = \mathbf{150 \text{ ppm}}$$

Q2. Convert 150 ppm hardness to $^{\circ}\text{F}$ and $^{\circ}\text{C}$.

$$^{\circ}\text{F} = 150/10 = \mathbf{15^{\circ}\text{F}}; ^{\circ}\text{C} = 150/14.3 = \mathbf{10.5^{\circ}\text{C}}$$

Q3. Water has temporary hardness 50 ppm and permanent 80 ppm. What is total hardness in $^{\circ}\text{F}$?

$$\text{Total} = 130 \text{ ppm}; ^{\circ}\text{F} = 130/10 = \mathbf{13^{\circ}\text{F}}$$

Q4. $\text{CaSO} = 27.2 \text{ mg/L}$ in water. Calculate hardness.

$$\text{MW of CaSO} = 136; \text{Hardness} = \frac{27.2 \times 100}{136} = \mathbf{20 \text{ ppm}}$$

Zeolite Process Numerical

Worked Example

Problem: A zeolite softener contains 1000 litres of zeolite with exchange capacity of 5500 litres of water of hardness 100 ppm per cubic metre of zeolite. How many litres of 10% NaCl solution are needed to regenerate it?

Solution:

Volume softened = 5500 L per $\text{m}^3 \times 1 \text{ m}^3 = 5500 \text{ L}$

Hardness = 100 ppm = 100 mg CaCO_3 per litre

Total CaCO_3 equivalent = $5500 \times 100 = 550,000 \text{ mg} = 550 \text{ g}$

CaCO_3 equivalent moles = $\frac{550}{100} = 5.5 \text{ mol}$

Reaction: $\text{CaZe} + 2\text{NaCl} \rightarrow \text{NaZe} + \text{CaCl}_2$

NaCl required = $2 \times 5.5 = 11 \text{ mol} = 11 \times 58.5 = 643.5 \text{ g}$

Volume of 10% NaCl = $\frac{643.5}{0.10 \times 1000} = \mathbf{6.435 \text{ L}}$

Advanced Water Treatment Technologies

Ultrafiltration (UF):

Membrane pore size 0.01–0.1 μm
Removes bacteria, viruses, colloids
No disinfectant needed

Nanofiltration (NF):

Pore size 0.001–0.01 μm
Removes divalent ions (hardness),
organic molecules
Between UF and RO

Ozonation:

O — strong oxidant ($E^\circ = 2.07\text{ V}$)
Destroys micropollutants (pesticides,
pharmaceuticals)
No chlorine by-products (THMs)

Membrane Spectrum

Process	Pore size	Removes
MF	0.1–10 μm	Suspended solids
UF	0.01–0.1 μm	Bacteria, viruses
NF	1–10 nm	Divalent ions
RO	0.1–1 nm	All dissolved ions

Activated Carbon

Removes organic compounds,
taste/odour, chlorine from water
by adsorption. Surface area 500–1500
 m^2/g

Wastewater Reuse & Recycling

Categories of Reuse

Agricultural: Treated wastewater for irrigation (largest reuse globally)

Industrial: Cooling water, process water

Municipal non-potable: Toilet flushing, street cleaning, firefighting

Groundwater recharge: Indirect potable reuse via aquifer

Direct potable reuse: Advanced treated water into drinking supply (emerging)

Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD):

All wastewater treated and recycled within facility; no effluent discharged

- Mandatory for textile, pharma, tannery in India (CPCB norms)
- Uses evaporators, crystallizers, RO in sequence

Rain Water Harvesting:

Collect roof/surface runoff

Recharge groundwater table

Mandatory in several Indian states for buildings $>100 \text{ m}^2$

Water Pollution: Sources & Effects

Source	Pollutants	Effects
Domestic sewage	BOD organics, pathogens, N, P	O depletion, disease, eutrophication
Industrial effluent	Heavy metals, acids, solvents	Toxicity to aquatic life, bioaccumulation
Agricultural runoff	Pesticides, fertilizers (N, P)	Eutrophication, algal blooms, nitrate in groundwater
Thermal power plants	Heated water	Thermal pollution — reduces DO, kills fish
Oil spills	Petroleum hydrocarbons	Coats birds/fish, smothers benthic organisms
Mining	Acid mine drainage (H ₂ SO ₄ , Fe ²⁺)	Acidification, heavy metal contamination
Plastic waste	Microplastics	Accumulate in food chain, hormone disruption

Eutrophication: Excess N, P → algal bloom → algae die → BOD rises → DO falls → fish kills (dead zone)

Mid-Point Summary: Unit 7

Covered So Far

- ✓ Water quality parameters (physical & chemical)
- ✓ DO, BOD, COD definitions & significance
- ✓ Hardness: types, units, interconversion
- ✓ Hardness numericals (ppm, °F, °Cl)
- ✓ Lime-soda process (all reactions)
- ✓ Zeolite process + regeneration
- ✓ Ion exchange (demineralization)
- ✓ Reverse osmosis + desalination

Still To Come

- PYQ short & 7-mark questions
- More hardness + lime-soda numericals
- Boiler scale numericals
- Fluoride in water (health effects)
- Groundwater contamination
- Exam tips & common errors
- Revision flash points
- Mind map
- Unit summary + course wrap-up

Fluoride in Drinking Water

Fluoride & Health

Optimal: 0.6–1.5 mg/L

Prevents dental caries (tooth decay)

Defluoridation needed when:

>1.5 mg/L (WHO limit)

>1.5 mg/L causes **dental fluorosis**
(mottled enamel)

>4 mg/L causes **skeletal fluorosis**
(bone deformity)

India context: Fluoride belt in Rajasthan, Gujarat, AP; 20+ states affected

Defluoridation Methods:

- **Nalgonda technique:** Alum + lime → floc adsorbs F ; low cost, widely used in India
- **Activated alumina (AA):** F adsorbed on Al₂O₃ ; regenerated with NaOH + H₂SO₄
- **RO:** Removes >95% fluoride
- **Ion exchange:** Anion resin removes F

Fluoridation: In low-F areas, NaF/H₂SiF₆ added to reach 1 mg/L

Groundwater Contamination

Major Contaminants

Natural: Arsenic (West Bengal, Bangladesh), Fluoride, Iron, Nitrate from soil

Industrial: Heavy metals (Pb, Cd, Cr, Hg), petroleum hydrocarbons, solvents (TCE, PCE)

Agricultural: Nitrate (NO_3^-), pesticides, herbicides

Urban: Leaking sewers, landfill leachate, road salt

Arsenic in Groundwater:

Reductive mobilisation: FeOOH dissolved under anaerobic conditions releases adsorbed As

India limit: 0.01 mg/L (WHO)

Nitrate Health Effects:

>45 mg/L → methemoglobinemia (blue baby syndrome) in infants
 $\text{NO}_3^- \rightarrow \text{NO}_2^-$ binds Hb, reduces O_2 carrying capacity

Remediation:

Pump-and-treat, permeable reactive barriers, phytoremediation, monitored natural attenuation

BOD and COD: Numericals

Worked Examples

Q1. A wastewater sample has initial DO = 9 mg/L. After 5-day incubation at 20°C, DO = 2 mg/L. Find BOD₅.

$$BOD_5 = \text{Initial DO} - \text{Final DO} = 9 - 2 = \mathbf{7 \text{ mg/L}}$$

Q2. 0.4 g K₂Cr₂O₇ is used to oxidize organics in 250 mL sample. Calculate COD.

MW K₂Cr₂O₇ = 294 g/mol; equivalent weight = 294/6 = 49

$$\text{Equivalents} = \frac{0.4}{49} = 8.16 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eq}$$

O₂ equivalent wt = 8 g/eq

$$\text{COD} = \frac{8.16 \times 10^{-3} \times 8}{0.250} = \mathbf{0.261 \text{ g/L} = 261 \text{ mg/L}}$$

Q3. BOD/COD ratio = 0.35. Is biodegradation treatment suitable?

Ratio < 0.4 → **not suitable**; industrial/physico-chemical treatment preferred

PYQ: Short Answer Questions (2 marks) — Set 1

Q. Define hardness of water.

Inability of water to produce lather with soap due to dissolved Ca^{2+} and Mg^{2+} salts of bicarbonates, chlorides and sulphates.

Q. Distinguish temporary and permanent hardness.

Temporary: due to bicarbonates; removed by boiling. Permanent: due to chlorides/sulphates; cannot be removed by boiling.

Q. Define BOD.

Amount of O_2 (mg/L) consumed by microorganisms to biodegrade organic matter at 20°C over 5 days. High BOD = highly polluted.

Q. What is scale in boiler? Why harmful?

Hard deposit (CaSO_4 , CaCO_3) on inner boiler walls. Bad heat conductor $\rightarrow$ overheating $\rightarrow$ metal weakening $\rightarrow$ explosion risk + fuel waste.

Q. What is reverse osmosis?

Water forced through semi-permeable membrane under pressure $>$ osmotic pressure. Removes all dissolved ions, bacteria.

Q. What is zeolite process?

Uses $\text{Na}_2\text{Al}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8 \cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O}$ to exchange Na^+ for $\text{Ca}^{2+}/\text{Mg}^{2+}$. Regenerated with NaCl .

PYQ: Short Answer Questions (2 marks) — Set 2

Q. What is caustic embrittlement?

Cracking of boiler steel at stressed joints due to concentrated NaOH in crevices. Prevented by adding Na_2SO_4 (ratio $> 2.5:1$ vs NaOH).

Q. What is priming and foaming?

Priming: carryover of water droplets with steam. Foaming: stable foam on boiler water surface due to dissolved organics/oils.

Q. State principle of ion-exchange softening.

*Cation resin (R-H) exchanges H^+ for $\text{Ca}^{2+}/\text{Mg}^{2+}$; anion resin (R-OH) exchanges OH^- for $\text{Cl}^-/\text{SO}_4^{2-}$.
Combined = demineralized water.*

Q. What is coagulation and flocculation?

Coagulation: alum $\text{Al}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3$ hydrolyses to $\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3$ gel, neutralizes colloidal charges. Flocculation: gentle stirring aggregates particles into flocs for settling.

Q. Define COD. How does it differ from BOD?

O_2 equivalent of all oxidizable matter (by $\text{K}_2\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_7$). $\text{COD} \geq \text{BOD}$ always; includes non-biodegradable organics.

Q. What is breakpoint chlorination?

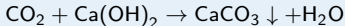
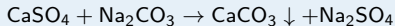
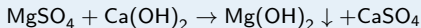
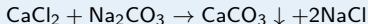
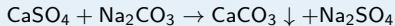
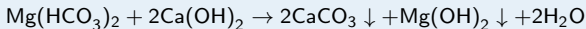
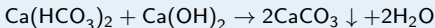
Dose of Cl_2 at which all NH_3 is oxidized to N_2 and free Cl_2 residual begins to appear.

PYQ: 7-Mark — Lime-Soda Process

Explain lime-soda process with all reactions (7 marks)

Principle: Lime $[\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2]$ + soda ash $[\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3]$ precipitate hardness ions as CaCO_3 and $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$.

Reactions:



Process: Cold (50–80 ppm residual) or hot (<15 ppm). Sludge removed by sedimentation + filtration. Advantages: cheap, removes turbidity, Fe, CO_2 . Disadvantage: sludge disposal.

PYQ: 7-Mark — Municipal Drinking Water Treatment

Describe municipal drinking water treatment with flowchart (7 marks)

Screening	Screens remove large debris from river intake
Sedimentation	Plain settling; removes heavy suspended particles
Coagulation	Alum added; $\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3$ gel precipitates colloids; pH adjusted with lime
Flocculation	Gentle stirring; flocs grow and settle in clarifier
Sand filtration	Slow or rapid sand filter removes fine particles and bacteria
Disinfection	Cl_2 (0.2–0.5 mg/L residual), ozone, or UV; kills pathogens
pH correction	Lime/ CO_2 adjustment to 6.5–8.5
Fluoridation	NaF added if $\text{F}^- < 0.6$ mg/L
Distribution	Pumped to overhead tanks and supply network

BIS/WHO limits: pH 6.5–8.5; TDS <500; Hardness <200; Cl_2 residual 0.2 mg/L; Coliform = 0/100 mL

PYQ: 7-Mark — Sewage Treatment

Describe sewage treatment (primary, secondary, tertiary) (7 marks)

Primary (Physical): Screening → Grit chamber → Primary sedimentation tank
Removes 30–40% BOD, 60% SS; produces primary sludge

Secondary (Biological):

Trickling filter: Wastewater trickled over stone/plastic media with biofilm; aerobic oxidation; BOD removal 80–90%

Activated sludge: Aeration tank; microbes consume organics; secondary clarifier; sludge recycled; BOD removal 90–95%

Tertiary: Sand filtration, activated carbon, nutrient removal (N, P), disinfection, RO

Final effluent meets standards for river discharge or reuse

Sludge treatment: Anaerobic digestion → biogas (60–70% CH₄) + biosolids (fertilizer)

CPCB effluent standards: BOD <10 mg/L; SS <20 mg/L; pH 6.5–9.0

Numerical: Boiler Scale and Zeolite

Worked Examples

Q1. A boiler uses water with hardness 200 ppm. 50,000 litres used per day. Find mass of CaCO_3 scale formed.

$$200 \text{ ppm} = 200 \text{ mg/L}$$

$$\text{Scale/day} = 200 \times 10^{-3} \text{ g/L} \times 50,000 \text{ L} = \mathbf{10,000 \text{ g} = 10 \text{ kg/day}}$$

Q2. Water contains $\text{CaCl}_2 = 222 \text{ mg/L}$, $\text{MgCl}_2 = 190 \text{ mg/L}$. Zeolite exchange capacity = 85 g CaCO_3/kg . Find zeolite needed for 10,000 L.

$$\text{Hardness } (\text{CaCl}_2): \frac{222 \times 100}{111} = 200 \text{ ppm}; \text{ Hardness } (\text{MgCl}_2):$$

$$\frac{190 \times 100}{95} = 200 \text{ ppm}$$

$$\text{Total} = 400 \text{ ppm}; \text{ CaCO}_3 \text{ equiv} = 400 \times 10^{-3} \times 10,000 = 4000 \text{ g}$$

$$\text{Zeolite} = \frac{4000}{85} \times 1000 = \mathbf{47.06 \text{ kg}}$$

Common Exam Errors & Tips

Common Mistakes

- Forgetting CaCO_3 equivalent in ppm formula
- Confusing bicarbonates = temporary with chlorides/sulphates = permanent
- Zeolite regenerated by NaCl , not Na_2CO_3
- Mg salts need **two** separate lime-soda reactions
- $\text{COD} \geq \text{BOD}$ always; never vice versa
- Free CO_2 needs lime in lime-soda process (often forgotten)

Exam Strategy

- Write MW and formula before each numerical step
- Separate each salt in hardness calculations
- Simple flowchart earns diagram marks (5/7-mark Q)
- Memorise all 7 lime-soda reactions
- 2-mark = definition + 1 example = full marks
- Show balanced equations with product states ($\downarrow$, $\uparrow$)
- BOD/COD ratio indicates treatment method choice

Industrial Water: Cooling Systems

Cooling Water Problems

Scale: CaCO_3 , CaSO_4 in heat exchangers

Corrosion: Dissolved O_2 , CO_2 , microbiological activity

Biofouling: Algae, bacteria (*Legionella* in cooling towers)

Treatments:

Scale inhibitors: polyphosphates, HEDP

Corrosion inhibitors: molybdates, benzotriazole

Biocides: Cl_2 , isothiazolone, glutaraldehyde

Cycles of Concentration (CoC):

$$\text{CoC} = \frac{\text{TDS in recirculating water}}{\text{TDS in makeup water}}$$

Higher CoC $\rightarrow$ less makeup water (better efficiency), but higher scaling risk. Typical: 3–5 cycles.

Blowdown: Fraction of recirculating water purged to control TDS buildup.

Legionella control: Residual biocide; periodic hyperchlorination; storage temperatures $>60^\circ\text{C}$

Comprehensive Hardness Numerical

Full Classification Example

Problem: Water contains: $\text{Ca}(\text{HCO}_3)_2 = 16.2 \text{ mg/L}$; $\text{Mg}(\text{HCO}_3)_2 = 14.6 \text{ mg/L}$; $\text{CaSO}_4 = 13.6 \text{ mg/L}$; $\text{MgCl}_2 = 9.5 \text{ mg/L}$. Find temporary, permanent and total hardness in ppm and $^\circ\text{F}$.

Salt	MW	mg/L	Hardness (ppm)
$\text{Ca}(\text{HCO}_3)_2$	162	16.2	$\frac{16.2 \times 100}{162} = 10 \text{ (Temp)}$
$\text{Mg}(\text{HCO}_3)_2$	146	14.6	$\frac{14.6 \times 100}{146} = 10 \text{ (Temp)}$
CaSO_4	136	13.6	$\frac{13.6 \times 100}{136} = 10 \text{ (Perm)}$
MgCl_2	95	9.5	$\frac{9.5 \times 100}{95} = 10 \text{ (Perm)}$

Temporary = $10+10 = 20 \text{ ppm} = 2^\circ\text{F}$ Permanent = $10+10 = 20 \text{ ppm} = 2^\circ\text{F}$

Total hardness = $40 \text{ ppm} = 4^\circ\text{F}$

Water Conservation & Environmental Regulations

Conservation Strategies

Domestic: Low-flow fixtures, rain-water harvesting, greywater reuse

Agricultural: Drip irrigation (50% less water vs flood), soil moisture monitoring

Industrial: Recirculation cooling, ZLD, water audits

India schemes: Jal Jeevan Mission (piped water to rural households); Atal Bhujal Yojana (ground-water management)

Indian Regulations

Water Act, 1974: Prevention & Control of Pollution

EP Act, 1986: Environment Protection

IS 10500:2012: BIS drinking water standard

CPCB effluent norms:

pH: 6.5–9.0

BOD: <30 mg/L (river discharge)

SS: <100 mg/L

Oil & grease: <10 mg/L

ZLD mandatory: textile, pharma, tannery

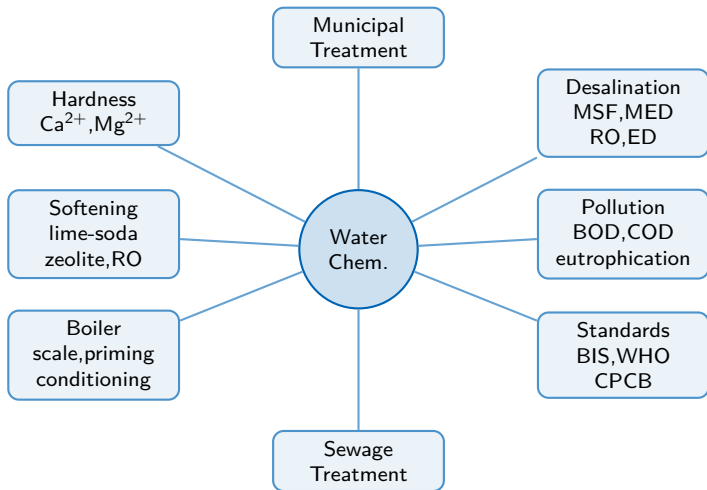
Revision Flash Points: Unit 7

- Hardness ppm = $(\text{mg/L} \times 100) / \text{MW of salt as CaCO}_3$
- 1 ppm = $0.1^\circ\text{F} = 0.07^\circ\text{C} = 0.056^\circ\text{d}$
- Temporary hardness = bicarbonate salts; removed by boiling
- Lime-soda: Ca(OH)_2 removes temporary; Na_2CO_3 removes permanent Ca; both needed for Mg salts
- Zeolite regenerated by 10% NaCl; cannot remove turbidity
- Ion exchange $\rightarrow$ demineralized (DM) water for boiler feed
- RO: pressure $>$ osmotic pressure; removes all dissolved ions
- Boiler troubles: scale, priming, foaming, caustic embrittlement, corrosion
- Scale: CaSO_4 hardest; poor heat transfer $\rightarrow$ explosion risk
- N_2H_4 removes O_2 without adding TDS (high-pressure boilers)
- BOD_5 at 20°C ; $\text{BOD}/\text{COD} < 0.4 \rightarrow$ biological treatment unsuitable
- Breakpoint Cl_2 : all NH_3 oxidized; free Cl_2 appears
- BIS: pH 6.5–8.5; TDS < 500 ; hardness < 200 ; F^- 0.6–1.5 mg/L
- Dental fluorosis > 1.5 mg/L; skeletal fluorosis > 4 mg/L
- Defluoridation: Nalgonda technique or activated alumina
- Sewage: primary (physical) $\rightarrow$ secondary (biological) $\rightarrow$ tertiary
- Anaerobic digestion of sludge $\rightarrow$ biogas (60–70% CH_4)
- Eutrophication: excess N, P $\rightarrow$ algal bloom $\rightarrow$ DO depletion $\rightarrow$ dead zone
- ZLD mandatory for textile/pharma/tannery in India

Key Data & Reactions for Exam

Item	Value / Reaction
Hardness units	1 ppm = 0.1°F = 0.07°C
Hardness formula	$\frac{\text{mg/L} \times 100}{\text{MW}}$ as CaCO ₃ equivalent
BOD (clean water)	<1 mg/L; polluted river 5–10; sewage 200–500
DO (clean water)	8–9 mg/L; fish survive >4 mg/L
Municipal Cl ₂ residual	0.2–0.5 mg/L
Zeolite formula	Na ₂ Al ₂ Si ₂ O ₈ · xH ₂ O (Na ₂ Ze)
Zeolite regeneration	CaZe + 2NaCl → Na ₂ Ze + CaCl ₂
Internal conditioning	3CaSO ₄ + 2Na ₃ PO ₄ → Ca ₃ (PO ₄) ₂ ↓ + 3Na ₂ SO ₄
O ₂ scavenger	N ₂ H ₄ + O ₂ → N ₂ + 2H ₂ O
Caustic embrittlement	Na ₂ SO ₄ : NaOH ratio > 2.5
Coagulation	Al ₂ (SO ₄) ₃ + 3Ca(HCO ₃) ₂ → 2Al(OH) ₃ ↓ + 3CaSO ₄ + 6CO ₂

Unit 7: Concept Mind Map



Hardness Numericals: Practice Set

Practice Problems

Q1. Find hardness in ppm: $\text{CaCl}_2 = 111 \text{ mg/L}$; $\text{MgSO}_4 = 60 \text{ mg/L}$.

$$\text{CaCl}_2: \frac{111 \times 100}{111} = 100 \text{ ppm}; \quad \text{MgSO}_4: \frac{60 \times 100}{120} = 50 \text{ ppm}; \quad \text{Total} = \mathbf{150 \text{ ppm}}$$

Q2. Convert 150 ppm to $^{\circ}\text{F}$ and $^{\circ}\text{C}$.

$$^{\circ}\text{F} = 150/10 = \mathbf{15^{\circ}\text{F}}; \quad ^{\circ}\text{C} = 150/14.3 = \mathbf{10.5^{\circ}\text{C}}$$

Q3. Water: $\text{Ca}(\text{HCO}_3)_2 = 81 \text{ mg/L}$; $\text{MgSO}_4 = 72 \text{ mg/L}$; $\text{CaCl}_2 = 55.5 \text{ mg/L}$.

Find temporary and permanent hardness.

$$\text{Temp: } \text{Ca}(\text{HCO}_3)_2 \text{ only} = \frac{81 \times 100}{162} = 50 \text{ ppm}$$

$$\text{Perm: } \text{MgSO}_4: \frac{72 \times 100}{120} = 60; \quad \text{CaCl}_2: \frac{55.5 \times 100}{111} = 50; \quad \text{Total perm} = \mathbf{110 \text{ ppm}}$$

$$\text{Total} = \mathbf{160 \text{ ppm} = 16^{\circ}\text{F}}$$

Numerical: Lime and Soda Required

Lime-Soda Requirement Calculation

Problem: Calculate lime $[\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2]$ and soda $[\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3]$ required to treat 1 litre of water containing: $\text{Ca}(\text{HCO}_3)_2 = 32.4 \text{ mg/L}$; $\text{MgCl}_2 = 19 \text{ mg/L}$; $\text{MgSO}_4 = 24 \text{ mg/L}$.

MW: $\text{Ca}(\text{HCO}_3)_2=162$; $\text{MgCl}_2=95$; $\text{MgSO}_4=120$; $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2=74$; $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3=106$

Lime required:

For $\text{Ca}(\text{HCO}_3)_2$: $\frac{32.4}{162} \times 74 = 14.8 \text{ mg/L}$

For MgCl_2 (2 moles lime): $\frac{19}{95} \times 2 \times 74 = 29.6 \text{ mg/L}$

For MgSO_4 (2 moles lime): $\frac{24}{120} \times 2 \times 74 = 29.6 \text{ mg/L}$

Total lime = 74.0 mg/L

Soda required:

MgCl_2 produces CaCl_2 : $\frac{19}{95} \times 106 = 21.2 \text{ mg/L}$

MgSO_4 produces CaSO_4 : $\frac{24}{120} \times 106 = 21.2 \text{ mg/L}$

Total soda = 42.4 mg/L

Key Parameters in Sewage Treatment

Parameter	Typical Sewage	After Treatment
BOD	200–300 mg/L	<10 mg/L (tertiary)
COD	300–600 mg/L	<50 mg/L
SS	150–300 mg/L	<20 mg/L
Total N	30–50 mg/L	<10 mg/L
Total P	5–15 mg/L	<1 mg/L
pH	7 (neutral)	6.5–9.0
DO	≈0	>6 mg/L (after aeration)
Coliforms	10^6 – 10^9 /100 mL	0 (after disinfection)

Treatment Efficiency

Primary: 30–40% BOD removal; Secondary: 85–95% BOD removal; Tertiary: >99% BOD removal

RO and Membrane Processes: Summary

Reverse Osmosis in Detail

Osmosis: Solvent flows from dilute to concentrated solution through semi-permeable membrane.

Osmotic pressure: $\Pi = iCRT$ (van't Hoff)

RO: Applied pressure $> \Pi$ forces water through membrane, leaving ions behind.

Seawater $\Pi \approx 27$ bar; operating pressure 50–80 bar

Brackish water: 10–20 bar

Membrane: Thin-film composite (TFC) polyamide; pore ≈ 0.1 –1 nm

Recovery: 40–85% of feed water recovered

RO Applications:

- Seawater desalination (SWRO)
- Brackish water treatment
- Boiler feed water production
- Industrial pure water
- Pharmaceutical grade water
- Domestic RO systems

R.O. Rejects (brine):

Must be disposed carefully; high TDS brine disposal is an environmental challenge for inland plants.

Pre-treatment for RO:

Coagulation $\rightarrow$ filtration $\rightarrow$ cartridge filter $\rightarrow$ antiscalant dosing $\rightarrow$ RO

Water, Sustainability & Global Perspective

Global Water Facts

Total global water: 1.386 billion km³

Freshwater: 2.5% only

Accessible freshwater: <1%

2.2 billion people lack safe drinking water (UN, 2022)

4.2 billion lack adequate sanitation

UN SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation for all by 2030

India annual per capita water availability dropping from 5177 m³ (1951) to $\approx$ 1486 m³ (2021)

Indian Water Challenges:

- Groundwater over-extraction (Punjab, Rajasthan, UP)
- River pollution (Ganga, Yamuna)
- Industrial effluents in water bodies
- Arsenic and fluoride in groundwater
- Urban water supply infrastructure gaps

Green Chemistry Approach:

Water-less processes, solvent recycling, minimizing industrial water footprint, eco-friendly effluent treatment technologies

Electrodialysis (ED) & Advanced Desalination

Electrodialysis Principle

DC voltage applied across a stack of alternating cation-exchange membranes (CEM) and anion-exchange membranes (AEM).

Cations move toward cathode through CEM; anions move toward anode through AEM.

Result: dilute and concentrate compartments alternate in stack.

Best for: Brackish water (1000–5000 ppm TDS)

EDR: Electrodialysis Reversal — polarity periodically reversed to prevent fouling

Desalination Technology Comparison

Method	Energy	Best for	Scale
MSF	High	Seawater	Large
MED	Medium	Seawater	Large
SWRO	Low	Seawater	All
BWRO	Very low	Brackish	All
ED/EDR	Low	Brackish	Small to medium

Water Quality Monitoring & Testing

Laboratory Tests

EDTA titration: Total hardness measurement

$\text{Ca}^{2+} + \text{Mg}^{2+}$ titrated with 0.01 M EDTA; indicator EBT (wine red $\rightarrow$ blue at endpoint)

Winkler method: DO measurement
 $\text{MnSO}_4 + \text{KI} + \text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$; I_2 liberated
titrated with $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$

Permanganate method: COD
(quick estimate)

Dichromate method: Accurate COD

BOD apparatus: DO bottle, 5-day incubation, 20°C dark

Online/Field Monitoring:

- pH meter, conductivity meter, turbidimeter
- DO probe (polarographic or optical)
- TDS meter (conductivity-based)
- Fluoride ISE (ion-selective electrode)
- Spectrophotometer: nitrate, phosphate, chromium
- TOC analyser (Total Organic Carbon)

Real-time monitoring: SCADA systems monitor treatment plant parameters online; alarms for out-of-spec conditions

Microbiological Water Quality

Indicator Organisms

Total Coliforms: Normal inhabitant of gut of warm-blooded animals; indicates fecal contamination risk. Limit: 0/100 mL (drinking water)

E. coli: Specific indicator of fecal contamination; Limit: 0/100 mL

Heterotrophic Plate Count (HPC): General bacterial count; Limit <100 CFU/mL

Why coliforms? Easy to detect, survive longer than pathogens, correlate with pathogen presence

Detection Methods

MPN method (Most Probable Number): Multiple tube fermentation; statistical estimate of coliforms per 100 mL

Membrane filtration: 100 mL filtered; incubated on selective media; colonies counted

Rapid methods: Colilert (enzyme substrate), flow cytometry

Presumptive → Confirmed → Completed test sequence

PYQ: Short Answer Questions — Set 3

Q. Define dissolved oxygen (DO).

What is its significance?

O₂ dissolved in water; determined by Winkler method. Clean natural water: 8–9 mg/L. DO < 4 mg/L: aquatic life stressed. DO = 0: anaerobic (septic) conditions.

Q. What is the significance of BOD/COD ratio?

Ratio indicates biodegradability. >0.6: easily biodegradable; 0.4–0.6: biodegradable; <0.4: biologically resistant; need chemical/physical treatment.

Q. What is eutrophication?

Excess N and P in water body → algal bloom → algae die → microbial decomposition raises BOD → O₂ depletion → fish kills (hypoxic/anoxic

Q. What is sedimentation? How is it enhanced?

Settling of suspended particles under gravity. Enhanced by coagulation (alum) and flocculation (gentle stirring) to form larger, faster-settling flocs.

Q. Define TDS. What does high TDS indicate?

Total Dissolved Solids = all dissolved inorganic and organic matter. Measured by evaporation or conductivity. High TDS indicates contamination, industrial effluent, or excessive hardness. Limit: 500 mg/L (BIS).

Q. What is the Nalgonda technique?

Defluoridation: alum + lime added → Al(OH)₃ floc adsorbs F⁻ → floc settled and filtered. Low-cost, widely used in rural India.

PYQ: 7-Mark — Boiler Troubles & Prevention

Explain boiler troubles and their prevention (7 marks)

Trouble	Cause	Prevention
Scale	CaSO_4 , CaCO_3 , CaSiO_3 deposits	Na_3PO_4 /calgon; blowdown; DM water
Priming	High dissolved/suspended solids; rapid boiling	Slow heating; blowdown; baffle plates
Foaming	Oil, grease, organic matter in water	Remove oils; add anti-foam agents
Caustic embrittlement	NaOH conc. in crevices at stressed joints	Add Na_2SO_4 (ratio $>2.5:1$); use riveted boilers $\rightarrow$ welded construction
O_2 corrosion	Dissolved O_2 in feed water	Deaeration + N_2H_4 or Na_2SO_3
CO_2 corrosion	Dissolved CO_2 from bicarbonate decomposition	Add cyclohexylamine or morpholine (neutralising amines)

External treatment: Ion exchange/RO for DM water. **Internal conditioning:** Chemicals added to boiler feed water to control residual impurities.

Complete Hardness Removal Methods: Summary

Method	Removes	Residual	Sludge	Best Use
Boiling	Temporary only	Moderate	CaCO_3	Domestic, small scale
Lime-soda (cold)	All types	50–80 ppm	Yes, large	Municipal, industrial
Lime-soda (hot)	All types	<15 ppm	Yes	Industrial
Zeolite	All types	≈ 0	No	Industrial, domestic
Ion exchange (mixed)	All ions	≈ 0	No	Boiler feed, lab, pharma
RO	All ions	≈ 0	Brine	Desalination, DM water
Nanofiltration	Divalent ions	Low	Small	Partial softening

Key deciding factors

Scale: Municipal → lime-soda; Industrial softening → zeolite; Boiler feed (zero hardness required) → ion exchange or RO; Desalination → SWRO.

Numericals: Osmotic Pressure & Practical Problems

Problems

Q1. Water with 5000 mg/L NaCl. Approximate osmotic pressure? (MW NaCl = 58.5; $T = 25^{\circ}\text{C}$; $i = 2$)

$$C = \frac{5}{58.5} = 0.0855 \text{ mol/L}; \quad \Pi = iCRT = 2 \times 0.0855 \times 0.0831 \times 298 = 4.23 \text{ bar}$$

Q2. An RO unit has 40% recovery and feed flow 100 L/h. What is product and reject flow?

$$\text{Product} = 40\% \times 100 = 40 \text{ L/h}; \quad \text{Reject (brine)} = 60 \text{ L/h}$$

Q3. BOD test: 10 mL sample diluted to 300 mL. Initial DO = 9 mg/L; final DO = 3 mg/L. Find BOD.

$$\text{DO consumed} = 9 - 3 = 6 \text{ mg/L (in 300 mL)}$$

$$\text{Actual BOD} = 6 \times \frac{300}{10} = 180 \text{ mg/L}$$

Unit 7 Exam Strategy & High-Value Topics

Guaranteed 7-Mark Topics

- Lime-soda process (all reactions + advantages)
- Zeolite process (reactions + regeneration)
- Boiler troubles and prevention (full table)
- Municipal drinking water treatment (flowchart)
- Sewage treatment (primary + secondary + tertiary)
- Reverse osmosis (principle + applications)

High-Value Numericals

- Hardness in ppm (all salts given, classify temp/perm)
- Convert ppm to °F and °Cl
- Lime and soda required for a water sample
- Zeolite volume/NaCl for regeneration
- BOD from DO readings
- Scale formed per day from hardness data

Weightage: $\approx 15\%$ of DI01000071 final paper. Expect 1–2 numericals, 2–3 short definitions, and 1 descriptive (process flowchart or boiler troubles).

Engineering Chemistry DI01000071: Complete!

All Units Covered

- ✓ **Unit 1:** Atomic Structure, Bonding & Solutions
- ✓ **Unit 2:** Electrochemistry (EMF, batteries, corrosion)
- ✓ **Unit 3:** Corrosion (types, factors, protection)
- ✓ **Unit 4:** Fuels (classification, calorific values, numericals)
- ✓ **Unit 5:** Lubricants (properties, testing, viscosity)
- ✓ **Unit 6:** Polymers (types, synthesis, properties)
- ✓ **Unit 7:** Water Chemistry (hardness, treatment, boiler)

Exam Preparation Checklist

- ☐ Revise all formulas and key reactions (flashcards)
- ☐ Practice 5+ numericals per unit
- ☐ Draw all process flowcharts from memory
- ☐ Write short definitions for every bold term
- ☐ Attempt 3–4 PYQs without notes
- ☐ Review common errors slide per unit
- ☐ Revise unit mind maps 1 day before exam

Engineering Chemistry

DI01000071

"Water is the driving force of all nature."

— Leonardo da Vinci

Milav Dabgar

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Government Polytechnic Palanpur

All 7 Units Complete ✓