

TURBIDITY

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Metered Glass Tube

NTU Meter

■ WHAT IS IT?

Turbidity is a cleanliness test that gives an indication of the amount of inorganic, organic, or biological particles on a sample.

■ HOW IS IT DONE?

A set amount of the sample to be tested is placed in a tumbler jar with distilled water and agitated for a set amount of time. The sample is then filtered out leaving the loosened particles in the water.

The turbidity can then be tested in one of two ways:

The resulting water is poured into a metered glass tube with a target at the bottom. The water is slowly let out until the target becomes visible, and the turbidity value is recorded in mm, at the height of the water in the tube.

The resulting water can also be read with a nephelometric turbidity unit (NTU). The NTU meter measures the deflected light of a sample. The more light deflected, the higher the turbidity will be.

■ WHAT DO THE NUMBERS MEAN?

With the metered glass tube: the higher the number, the cleaner the sample. Very clean samples register a value of 550+ mm.

With the NTU meter: the lower the number, the cleaner the sample. A NTU value of less than 10 is considered clean.

■ WHY DO IT?

Governments require that products meet certain cleanliness requirements.

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