



**Ekurhuleni**  
METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

## Water Quality Report

Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality (EMM) is responsible for providing its citizens with clean and healthy water. In order to ensure that municipalities achieve this goal, the Department of Water Affairs (DWA) has introduced Blue Drop certification. This prestigious certification is only awarded to municipalities that achieve a score above 95% of the Blue Drop certification program criteria.

The Water Quality section has the responsibility to sample, test and evaluate potable water in the EMM at various points in terms of national legislation and ensures the “managing of drinking water quality with excellence.” Compliance with this scoring category implies that the specific water supply system qualifies for Blue Drop certification. This would imply that the EMM and DWA has confidence that the water services institution (municipality) is capable of sustaining safe quality of water supply and will act responsibly when deviation in tap water quality is detected (which might pose a health risk) through continuous efficient operational and compliance monitoring

According to the Constitution, the Municipal Structures Act and the Water Services Act, responsibility for the provision of water and sanitation services lies with the municipalities. Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality has to ensure the provision of effective, efficient and sustainable water services. In order to comply with legislation and also to ensure transparency in terms of the services we deliver we are publishing the results of the tests done on the water supplied to our residents.

Water quality need to comply with the microbiological, physical, aesthetic, operational and chemical determinants. It is most frequently used by reference to a set of standards against which compliance can be assessed. The quality and drinkability of water is measured against a national standard, known as the South African National Standard for Drinking Water (SANS 241-1:2015 Edition 2 and SANS 241-2:2015 Edition2).

**Acute Health:** Determinant that poses an immediate unacceptable health risk if present at concentration values exceeding the numerical limits as specified in SANS 241.

**Aesthetic:** Determinant that taint water with respect to taste, odour or colour and that does not pose an unacceptable health risk if present at concentration values exceeding the numerical limits as specified in SANS 241.

**Chronic Health:** Determinant that poses an unacceptable health risk if ingested over an extended period if present at concentration values exceeding the numerical limits as specified in SANS 241.

**Microbiological Health Compliance:** Microbial water quality is the state of the water with respect to the absence (good water quality) or presence (poor water quality) of certain disease causing micro-organisms. Where a microbiological value exceeds the numerical limit as specified in SANS an unacceptable risk to human health is implied. As the microbiological value increases, an increasing risk to health is implied.

**Operational:** Determinant that is essential for assessing the efficient operation of treatment systems and risks to infrastructure.