



EPA Updates Aquatic Life Benchmarks for Registered Conventional and Antimicrobial Pesticides

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Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released an updated version of the Aquatic Life Benchmarks <<https://epa.gov/pesticide-science-and-assessing-pesticide-risks/aquatic-life-benchmarks-and-ecological-risk>>. These benchmarks are estimates of the concentrations below which pesticides (including conventional and antimicrobial pesticides) are not expected to present a risk of concern for freshwater organisms.

The updated Aquatic Life Benchmarks represent 782 chemicals (parent compounds and degradates) including newly registered pesticides or new values for previously registered pesticides and selected degradates. The updates include:

- Benchmarks for four newly registered pesticides and their two degradates (new registrations); and
- Revised benchmarks for one existing active ingredient.

EPA based these benchmarks on toxicity values from scientific studies that the agency has reviewed and used in publicly accessible ecological risk assessments in support of regulatory decisions for pesticides. For each of the pesticides listed in the Aquatic Life Benchmarks table, the table provides a link to the source documents for the benchmarks.

State, tribal, and local governments use these benchmarks in their interpretation of water quality monitoring data. Comparing a measured concentration of a pesticide in

water to its Aquatic Life Benchmarks can help in interpreting monitoring data and in identifying and prioritizing monitoring sites that may require further investigation. For example, the benchmarks provide federal, state, and local agencies and other interested parties information with which to interpret water monitoring data on pesticides. International regulatory authorities and researchers also use these data in their work.

This update supersedes the previous version published August 22, 2024. EPA intends to continue to update these benchmarks annually.

Read the summary of updated benchmarks <<https://epa.gov/pesticide-science-and-assessing-pesticide-risks/summary-september-2025-updates-aquatic-life>> or see the complete Aquatic Life Benchmarks table <<https://epa.gov/pesticide-science-and-assessing-pesticide-risks/aquatic-life-benchmarks-and-ecological-risk#aquatic-benchmarks>>.

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