



WATER HARDNESS

HARDNESS REFERS TO THE AMOUNT OF CALCIUM AND MAGNESIUM SALTS IN WATER AND IS THE CHARACTERISTIC THAT AFFECTS LATHERING OF SOAP AND SCALING OF HOT WATER PIPES, FITTINGS AND HEATERS.



HOW IS HARDNESS MEASURED?

Ranges of hardness, usually expressed in units of milligrams per litre (mg/L) of equivalent Calcium Carbonate (CaCO₃) are rated by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Australian Drinking Water Quality Guidelines as follows:

<60 mg/L	Soft but possibly corrosive
60-200 mg/L	Good quality
200-500 mg/L	Increasing scaling problems
>500 mg/L	Severe scaling

Virtually all drinking waters available on the east coast of Australia can be described as either soft or of “good quality” and the table below shows that all Hunter Water sources fall into this category.

Waters supplied by Hunter Water Corporation are soft non-scaling waters at room temperature. The tables below set out areas supplied by different water treatment plants, and typical hardness of waters supplied by Hunter Water, expressed in various units.

Hunter Water

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AREAS SUPPLIED BY HUNTER WATER TREATMENT PLANTS

Areas supplied by Hunter Water Corporation may be supplied by one or more Water Treatment Plants (WTP):

WATER SUPPLY AREA	TYPICALLY SUPPLIED BY	CAN BE SUPPLIED BY
Newcastle, Lake Macquarie	Grahamstown WTP & Dungog WTP	Grahamstown WTP
Raymond Terrace, Tomago, Medowie, Stockton, Kooragang	Grahamstown WTP	Grahamstown WTP & Dungog WTP
Dungog, Paterson, Vacy, Martins Creek, Clarendetown, Seaham, Thornton, Maitland, Kurri, Cessnock, Branxton, Tarro, Beresfield	Dungog WTP	Grahamstown WTP & Dungog WTP
Anna Bay, Salamander, Soldiers Point, Boat Harbour, Fishermans Bay, Corlette	Anna Bay WTP & Grahamstown WTP	Grahamstown WTP
Nelson Bay, Fingal Bay, Shoal Bay	Nelson Bay WTP, Grahamstown WTP & Anna Bay WTP	Nelson Bay WTP
Lemon Tree Passage, Karuah, Mallabula, Oyster Cove, Swan Bay	Lemon Tree Passage WTP	
Gresford, East Gresford	Gresford WTP	

TYPICAL HARDNESS OF DRINKING WATER SUPPLIED BY HUNTER WATER CORPORATION

SOURCE	mg/L Calcium Carbonate (CaCO ₃) - equivalent to parts per million (ppm) Calcium Carbonate	GERMAN DEGREES	FRENCH DEGREES	mmol/L
Grahamstown Water Treatment Plant	30 - 105	1.68 – 5.88	3 – 10.5	0.3 – 1.05
Dungog Water Treatment Plant	15 - 55	0.84 – 3.08	1.5 – 5.5	0.15 – 0.55
Anna Bay Water Treatment Plant	40 - 85	2.24 – 4.76	4 – 8.5	0.4 – 0.85
Nelson Bay Water Treatment Plant	10 - 45	0.56 – 2.52	1 – 4.5	0.1 – 0.45
Lemon Tree Passage Water Treatment Plant	50 - 80	2.8 – 4.48	5 - 8	0.5 – 0.8
Gresford Water Treatment Plant	50 - 105	2.8 – 5.88	5 – 10.5	0.5 – 1.05