

Water temperatures referenced in Oregon OSHA's rules

Division 2 • Division 3 • Division 4



Oregon OSHA's rules include requirements to ensure that workers are provided with **cold, cool, tepid, warm, or hot water** for drinking, bathing, hand washing, laundering clothes, etc. To help employers understand the differences between these water temperature terms, we use this table as a guideline.

Potable water means safe drinking water that meets the bacteriological and chemical quality requirements in OAR Chapter 333, Division 61, Public Water Systems, Oregon Health Authority.

Drinking water definition: Potable water that is suitable to drink and that is cool (66° F to 77° F) or cold (35° F to 65° F). Drinking water packaged as a consumer product and electrolyte-replenishing beverages that do not contain caffeine (for example, sports drinks) are acceptable substitutes, but should not completely replace the required water.

Water Temperature Guidelines	
Requirement	Temperature Range
Cold	35° F - 65° F
Cool	66° F - 77° F
Tepid	78° F - 90° F
Warm	91° F - 98° F
Hot	99° F - 105° F

Rules that have water temperature requirements include, but are not limited to:

General Industry

1910.141(d)(2) Lavatories.

(ii) Each lavatory shall be provided with hot and cold running water, or tepid running water.

437-002-0156(4)(a) Drinking Water

Ensure that a sufficient supply of drinking water is immediately and readily available to exposed employees at all times, at no cost, when the heat index in the work area equals or exceeds 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

(a) Supplied drinking water must be either cool or cold.

Construction

437-003-0020 Toilets.

(1) ...and washing facilities which include wash basins, warm water and soap.

Agriculture

Field Sanitation:

437-004-1110(5) Potable drinking water.

(b) The water must be suitably cool and in sufficient amounts, taking into account the air temperature, humidity, and the nature of the work, to meet the needs of all employees.

Agriculture Labor Housing:

437-004-1120(8) Bathing, hand washing, laundry, and toilet facilities – General.

(a) Provide an adequate supply of hot and cold water under pressure for all common use bathing, hand washing, and laundry facilities at all labor housing and related facilities.

437-004-1130(4) Drinking water.

Employers must ensure that an adequate supply of additional drinking water is readily accessible to employees at all times and at no cost when the heat index in the work area equals or exceeds 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

Supplied drinking water must be either cool or cold ... employers must supply each employee enough water to enable them to consume 32 ounces per hour.



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Workers

Your employer cannot retaliate against you for reporting any workplace health or safety concern or violation. For more information on your rights, visit Oregon OSHA.



The Technical Section of Oregon OSHA produced this fact sheet to highlight health and safety programs and rules. The information is intended to supplement the rules and provide best practices to employers.