

Potable Water



2.1.3 Potable Water sources from ashore and uses on board ships

A port may receive potable water from either a municipal or a private supply and usually has special arrangements for managing this water after it has entered the port.



How is Potable water used ?

Potable water is used in various ways on board ships, including direct human consumption, food preparation and sanitation / hygiene activities.



Potential uses include:

- Preparation of hot and cold beverages, such as coffee, tea and powdered beverages.
- Ice cubes in drinks.
- Reconstitution of dehydrated foods, such as soups, noodles, and infant formula.



Potential uses cont:

- Food washing and preparation
- Direct ingestion from cold-water taps and water fountains.
- Reconstitution and / or ingestion of medications.
- Brushing of teeth.
- Hand and face washing, bathing and showering.
- Dishwashing, and cleaning of utensils and work areas.
- Laundering purposes (could potentially use a lower grade of water).
- Emergency medical use.

Potable water:

- Although some uses do not necessitate consumption, they involve human contact and possibly incidental ingestion (e.g. tooth brushing)
- Although, whenever practicable, it is useful to have only one water system installed to supply potable water for drinking, culinary, dishwashing, ablutionary and laundering purposes, two or three systems are sometimes installed or required: potable, sanitary and wash water.

16. Guide to ship sanitation:

- Example: a wash water system can be used to supply slop sinks, laundry facilities, water closets, bibcock connections for deck flushing and cleaning purposes, heated water for dishwashing and water for other special uses.
- All non-potable water taps need to be labeled with words such as “UNFIT FOR DRINKING”. There should never be a connection between wash-water or other non-potable systems and the potable water system without using an appropriate backflow-prevention device.



SOURCE: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION SHIPS SANITATION