



TECHNICAL BULLETIN

WATER HARDNESS AND LITHOGRAPHY

The following table gives you a rough determination on water hardness as it relates to conductivity. With most fountain solution applications, soft to medium water is preferred and hard water is normally not suitable for quality lithography. The correlation between conductivity and water hardness may vary, but the chart below is a good guide in determining whether you should condition your water, based on your water's conductivity, prior to adding fountain solution.

Degree of Hardness	Grains per Gallon*	PPM	Conductivity in Micromhos
Soft	0-8.0	0-140	0-230
Medium	8.1-16.0	141-275	231-460
Hard	16.1 +	276 +	461 +

- Hardness is expressed in grains. One grain equals approximately 17-18 ppm.

Tower fountain solutions are formulated to run in a wide latitude of water hardness, and have advanced buffering systems to prevent pH drift and sequestering agents to prevent calcium carbonate from causing problems in the lithographic process.

For more information on Tower brand pressroom chemical products, please contact our customer service department at 800.527.8626 or visit our website at www.towerproducts.com.