

# USDA/ARS Methods Catalog

MethodID	OKGRL LM350.1		
Method Name	Ammonia by Automated Colorimetry		
Media	Water		
Method Type	Laboratory	Method Subcategory	Inorganic
Method Source	U.S. EPA National Exposure R		
Source Citation	Methods for the Determination of Inorganic Substances in Environmental Samples (EPA/600/R-93/100)		
Method Summary	Alkaline phenol and hypochlorite react with ammonia to form indophenol blue that is proportional to the ammonia concentration. The blue color is intensified with sodium nitroprusside (EPA 350.1).		
Instrument	Colorimeter		
Detection Limit Type			
DLNote			
Scope - Application	This method determines ammonia in drinking, surface, and saline waters; domestic and industrial wastes.		
Concentration Range	0.01 - 2.0	Concentration Units	mg/L
Interferences	(A) Calcium and Magnesium: Ions of these metals can cause errors by precipitating during analyses. Use EDTA solution (for river and industrial waters) or potassium tartrate solution (for sea water) to reduce this interference. (B) Turbidity: Sample turbi		
Precision Notes	Precision and accuracy values were calculated using interlaboratory data from EPA-managed Water Pollution (WP) performance evaluation studies.		
QA Requirements	None.		
Sampling Handling	Cool to 4°C, add H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> until sample pH < 2.		
Max Holding Time	28 days (MCAWW, Table 1).		
Sample Prep Methods			
Link To Full Method	<a href="http://infotrek.er.usgs.gov/docs/nemi/method_pdf/350.1.pdf">http://infotrek.er.usgs.gov/docs/nemi/method_pdf/350.1.pdf</a>		
Method Contact	John.D.Ross@ars.usda.gov		

## Analytes using this Method:

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**Analyte:** ammonium

MethodID: OKGRL\_LM350.1

Detection level: 0 mg/L

	Instrument	Matrix
Accuracy	0	0
Precision	0	0

False Positive Value: False Positive Value:

Accuracy/Precision Concentration Used:

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