

I use a chlorine product to wash my apples. Am I limited to the amount of chlorine prescribed in the Safe Drinking Water Act when I wash the apples, or just for the rinse water?

The National List permits the use of chlorine materials in crop production as disinfectants or sanitizers. The annotation says that the residual chlorine levels cannot exceed the maximum residual disinfectant limits under the Safe Drinking Water Act—this refers to where wastewater stream leaves the production or handling operation. Therefore, excessive amounts of chlorine to wash apples will cause you to exceed the maximum residual disinfectant limits for wastewater leaving your operation and result in a non-compliance of the regulations. (Under the Safe Drinking Water Act, maximum residual disinfectant limit for chlorine is currently 4.0 mg/L, per 40 CFR 141.65.) However, check with your local water authorities and your certifying agent to determine the correct maximum levels allowed.

[e-CFR](#)