Background documents for development of
WHO Guidelines for drinking-water quality:
fourth edition incorporating the first and second addenda
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The following background documents, published in 2020 or 2021, informed the development of the WHO Guidelines for drinking-water quality (GDWQ) 4th edition, incorporating the 1st and 2nd addenda, published in March 2022.

Cyanotoxins
- Anatoxin-a and analogues
- Cylindrospermopsins
- Microcystins
- Saxitoxins

Other chemicals
- Asbestos
- Bentazone
- Chromium
- Iodine
- Manganese
- Nickel
- Organotins
- Silver
- Tetrachloroethene
- Trichloroethene

The recommendations in these publications, including any changes in guideline values, have been included in this updated GDWQ, which supersedes the recommendations in the GDWQ, 4th edition, incorporating the 1st addendum, published in 2017.

The cyanotoxin background documents also informed the update of the WHO Guidelines for safe recreational water environments, published in 2021.

These documents, and other publications of interest including additional background documents for the GDWQ, can also be accessed here.