

# MEMBRANE ELEMENT ION REJECTION RATES

## TFC MEMBRANES

CHARACTERISTICS OF THIN FILM COMPOSITE POLYAMIDE MEMBRANE		
Ion	Symbol	Nominal Rejection % <sup>A</sup>
Aluminum	Al <sup>+3</sup>	97-98
Ammonium	NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup>	85-95
Borate	B <sub>4</sub> O <sub>7</sub> <sup>-2</sup>	30-50
Boron	B	60-70
Bromide	Br <sup>-</sup>	93-96
Cadmium	Cd <sup>+2</sup>	93-97
Calcium	Ca <sup>+2</sup>	95-98
Chloride	Cl <sup>-</sup>	92-98
Chromate	CrO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-2</sup>	85-95
Copper	Cu <sup>+2</sup>	96-98
Fluoride	F <sup>-</sup>	93-95
Iron	Fe <sup>+2</sup>	96-98
Lead	Pb <sup>+2</sup>	95-98
Manganese	Mn <sup>+2</sup>	97-98
Magnesium	Mg <sup>+2</sup>	95-98
Mercury	Hg <sup>+2</sup>	95-97
Nickel	Ni <sup>+2</sup>	97-98
Nitrate	NO <sub>3</sub>	90-95
Phosphate	PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-3</sup>	95-98
Polyphosphate	No Symbol	96-98
Potassium	K <sup>+</sup>	92-96
Silica	Si	85-90
Silicate	SiO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-2</sup>	92-95
Silver	Ag <sup>+</sup>	95-97
Sodium	Na <sup>+</sup>	92-98
Sulfate	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-2</sup>	96-98
Thiosulfate	S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> <sup>-2</sup>	97-98
Zinc	Zn <sup>+2</sup>	97-99

## CTA MEMBRANES

CHARACTERISTICS OF CELLULOSE ACETATE MEMBRANE		
Ion	Symbol	Nominal Rejection % <sup>A</sup>
Aluminum	Al <sup>+3</sup>	96-99
Ammonium	NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup>	85-95
Barium	Ba <sup>+2</sup>	94-96
Bicarbonate	HCO <sub>3</sub>	90-95
Borate	B <sub>4</sub> O <sub>7</sub> <sup>-2</sup>	25-50
Bromide	Br <sup>-</sup>	87-93
Cadmium	Cd <sup>+2</sup>	96-98
Calcium	Ca <sup>+2</sup>	92-95
Chloride	Cl <sup>-</sup>	90-95
Chromate	CrO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-2</sup>	80-90
Chromium	Cr <sup>+3</sup>	96-98
Copper	Cu <sup>+2</sup>	98-99
Fluoride	F <sup>-</sup>	87-93
Iron	Fe <sup>+2</sup>	95-98
Lead	Pb <sup>+2</sup>	96-98
Manganese	Mn <sup>+2</sup>	92-96
Magnesium	Mg <sup>+2</sup>	96-98
Mercury	Hg <sup>+2</sup>	96-98
Nickel	Ni <sup>+2</sup>	96-98
Nitrate	NO <sub>3</sub>	50-70
Phosphate	PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-3</sup>	96-99
Potassium	K <sup>+</sup>	85-95
Silicate	SiO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-2</sup>	80-90
Silver	Ag <sup>+</sup>	90-95
Sodium	Na <sup>+</sup>	87-93
Sulfate	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-2</sup>	98-99
Thiosulfate	S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> <sup>-2</sup>	96-99
Zinc	Zn <sup>+2</sup>	98-99

A. The above percent of rejection is for reference only and not to be construed as chemistry, temperature, and TDS are not constant in each water supply.

## REVERSE OSMOSIS—HOW DOES IT WORK?

Reverse osmosis (RO) is a separation process that uses pressure to force a solvent through a membrane that retains the solute on one side and allows the pure solvent to pass to the other side. More formally, it is the process of forcing a solvent from a region of high solute concentration through a membrane to a region of low solute concentration by applying a pressure in excess of the osmotic pressure. This is the reverse of the osmosis process,

which is the natural movement of solvent from an area of low solute concentration through a membrane, to an area of high solute concentration when no external pressure is applied. The membrane here is semipermeable, meaning it allows the passage of solvent but not of solute.

