

ERB Acronym and Glossary – Z

Acronym	Term	Definition
Zn	Zinc	A metal that is found naturally in air, soil, water and foods. It is used in brass alloys, bronze, die-casting alloys, galvanizing iron, fungicides, smoke bombs, pharmaceuticals, pennies, and as a protective coating for other metals. Zinc in water can be dissolved or undissolved, depending on the chemical and physical properties of the local environment. The dominant fate of zinc is adsorption to sediments. Zinc in soil is most likely to be strongly absorbed, depending on conditions. Transfer to groundwater from soil is not a dominant process. The soluble forms of zinc are the most toxic forms to aquatic biota. Zinc is an essential nutrient for humans, however, excessive amounts can be harmful. Zinc can reduce "good cholesterol", as well as lead to various gastrointestinal disorders.
ZVI	zero-valent iron	Metallic iron, independent of particle size, containing its full complement of electrons. Used to degrade chlorinated solvents, polychlorinated biphenyls and other groundwater through reductive dehalogenation.

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Acronym	Term	Definition
	zero order reaction	A chemical reaction in which an increase (or decrease) in reactant concentration results in no change in the rate of reaction (as long as some reactant is present).
	zone of aeration (unsaturated)	The zone in which the open spaces in soil or in a rock formation contain air and water. The comparatively dry soil or rock located between the ground surface and the top of the water table.
	zone of saturation	The area below the water table where all open spaces are filled with water.
	zooplankton	Tiny aquatic animals eaten by fish.