


## Water Activity Decision Guide

The table below describes the differences between the 3 method of measuring water activity available in the market  
(**Blue** indicates advantage to the user, **Red** indicates dis-advantage to the user)

			
Feature	Resistive Electrolytic Measurement	Dew Point Measurement	Capacitive Measurement
Direct measurement of the aw-value	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>
Precision (aw)	<b>0.003</b>	<b>0.003</b>	<b>0.04</b>
Frequent cleaning required	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Inaccurate results from Volatiles (Alcohols, organic acids etc.)	<b>No (Using filters)</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b> <small>Chemical contamination leads to irreversible sensor damage</small>
Chemical filter protection available	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>
Calibration method	<b>Reusable calibration salts</b>	<b>Disposable expensive solutions</b>	<b>Disposable expensive solutions</b>
measurement timed	<b>No</b> <small>Ends when sample reaches equilibrium</small>	<b>Yes</b> <small>timed to 5 minutes even if equilibrium never reached</small>	<b>Yes</b> <small>timed to 5 minutes even if equilibrium never reached</small>
Hysteresis-free	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Memory effect	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>

It is evident, that the **Resistive Electrolytic method** used exclusively by **Novasina Swiss** has a superior performance, is easier to use, and offers large cost savings due to its reusable (up to 5 years!!!) calibration salts.