

Fluoride / Fluoridation

Water fluoridation is the practice of adding fluoride compounds to the public drinking water supply with the intended purpose of reducing tooth decay in the general population.

All untreated sources of drinking water, called raw water, will contain fluoride as part of its natural mineral content and this is not removed during the treatment processes. However the natural content in the Welsh Water supply area is well below the level to which fluoride would be added for dental purposes. Naturally occurring levels are typically less than 50 microgrammes/litre.

Who decides if my drinking water is fluoridated?

In the past, local authorities could ask water companies to fluoridate drinking water, but companies could decline to do so. Section 58 of the Water Act 2003 amended the Water Industry Act 1991 so that water companies now have to fluoridate drinking water supplies if asked to do so by a Strategic Health Authority (SHA) or the Welsh Assembly Government following local consultation.

Currently fluoride is not added to drinking water at any of Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water's water treatment works nor is the necessary legislation in force yet in Wales. The question of whether fluoride, or any other additive deemed to provide a benefit to health, should be added to tap water is a matter that should be decided by health authorities and the Government. If the addition of fluoride to drinking water becomes a requirement by law, then Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water will, of course, meet our legal obligations.

Where can I get further information?

Please call us first on our operational helpline on **0800 052 0130**.

One of our regulators, the Drinking Water Inspectorate, is responsible for ensuring the high quality of public water supplies. You can visit their website at: www.dwi.gov.uk