

Coachella Valley Fluoride Fact Sheet

Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) and Desert Water Agency (DWA) are committed to providing high quality drinking water that meets stringent federal and state drinking water quality standards. CVWD and DWA test nearly 20,000 water samples annually to ensure drinking water standard compliance. Samples are analyzed for more than 100 regulated and unrelated substances with tests performed by highly trained employees in state-certified laboratories. Below is more information about fluoride, which is among the substances found naturally in Coachella Valley's groundwater supply.

What is fluoride?

Fluoride is a naturally occurring mineral that forms when the element fluorine combines with minerals in soil or rocks. Fluoride is naturally occurring in both surface water and groundwater sources.

Is there fluoride in Coachella Valley Water District's drinking water?

Yes. Drinking water delivered by Coachella Valley Water District has natural levels of fluoride ranging from 0.2 to 1.5 parts per million (ppm). One part per million is equivalent to one drop of water in a 10-gallon bucket. CVWD does not add any fluoride to drinking water served to its' customer's.

Is the fluoride in my drinking water safe?

Yes. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency drinking water standard for fluoride is 4.0 ppm. California Department of Public Health's drinking water standard for fluoride is a more stringent 2.0 ppm. The level of fluoride found in drinking water delivered by CVWD meets these standards.

What are fluoride's health effects?

According to the U.S. EPA, many communities add fluoride to their drinking water to promote dental health. However, some people who drink water containing fluoride above the federal drinking water standard of 4 ppm over many years may get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Children who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the state drinking water standard of 2 ppm may develop cosmetic discoloration of their permanent teeth.

Where can I get more information about fluoride in drinking water?

U.S. EPA' website has information on fluoride in drinking water at:
<http://water.epa.gov/drink/contaminants/basicinformation/fluoride.cfm>

