

facts on fluoridation

what is the normal level of fluoride?

Fluoride is naturally present in all water supplies at varying levels. In areas that are rich in fluoride containing rocks and minerals, the level of fluoride, particularly in underground sources, can be quite high. Most sources in the UK are well below 1 part per million (1 mg/l).

why is fluoride added to water?

Fluoride is added in some areas at the request of the relevant Health Officials to protect teeth from decay. Where fluoride is added to the water supply the natural background level is raised to 1 part per million (1 mg/l).

who decides whether to add fluoride?

The decision is taken solely by the Health Authorities and not by the water company. By law, it must first consult the relevant local authorities before reaching a decision on any new fluoridation proposals. In future, any new schemes must involve formal public consultation, organised by the Strategic Health Authorities.

is fluoride a danger to health?

Fluoridation and fluoride in drinking water have been widely studied around the world. Official medical advice from the Department of Health and other bodies such as the World Health Organisation and the United States Environmental Protection Agency is that fluoridation, at the levels added, is not a risk to health and that it also helps protect teeth from decay.

who pays for fluoridation?

The Health Authorities. Fluoridation has no effect on water charges.

what is the role of Severn Trent Water?

We act solely at the Health Official's request as a contractor and sign a formal agreement with them. We follow strict guidelines laid down by the Government.

how is fluoride added?

Fluoride is normally added as a diluted solution or as a powder. Special control systems make sure it does not exceed the maximum permissible concentration set out in European standards. The fluoride is purchased from reputable suppliers against strict quality criteria.

which areas of Severn Trent Water are fluoridated?

These may vary from time to time according to our agreements with the local Health Authority. In general, 45% of Severn Trent Water's supply is fluoridated. If you want to know the level of fluoride in your water supply, visit our website at www.stwater.co.uk, or contact our Customer Relations department on our free phone number, 0800 783 4444. All questions about fluoridation in general and any possible future fluoridation plans in your area should be addressed to your local Health Authority. Your local Primary Care Trust will have their telephone number.