



Drinking Water Fluoridation

Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) purchases approximately 55 percent of its water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). MWD adjusts the natural fluoride level in the water by adding fluoride to a level considered “optimal” by health experts to reduce and control tooth decay.

BACKGROUND

MWD’s board first took a serious look at fluoridation in 1995 when Governor Pete Wilson signed a new state law conditionally requiring fluoridation of any public water supply with at least 10,000 customers. Because the law did not provide funding for utilities, many water agencies found the cost of fluoridating prohibitive.

Although MWD was exempt from conditions of the law, local public health officials pressed hard for large-scale fluoridation at MWD’s treatment plants, and adopted a policy to add fluoride. In September 2003, the California Dental Association Foundation, in conjunction with the California Fluoridation 2010 Work Group, provided MWD with \$5.5 million in grant monies to design and construct fluoridation facilities. MWD began fluoridating in October 2007.

FLUORIDATION OF EMWD’S WATER

Natural fluoride levels in drinking water are limited under California state regulations at a maximum level of 2.0 parts per million (ppm). EMWD will remain below the maximum regulatory limit at the optimal range of 0.7 to 0.8 ppm.

FLUORIDE SUPPLEMENTS

For additional information about fluoride supplements, contact your dentist or doctor.

FLUORIDE CONTACTS AND RESOURCES

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**U.S. Centers for
Disease Control and Prevention**
1 (800) 232-4636
www.cdc.gov/fluoridation

**America Dental
Association**
www.ada.org/fluoride

**American Water
Works Association**
www.awwa.org

California Drinking Water
[www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/
certlic/drinkingwater/Fluoridation.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Fluoridation.shtml)

**Eastern Municipal
Water District**
www.emwd.org

**The Metropolitan Water District
of Southern California**
www.mwdh2o.com

Eastern Municipal Water District

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