



Fluoride Supply Chain Notice – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. Is the water safe to drink?

Yes. Milwaukee's drinking water remains safe to drink and continues to meet water quality standards. This temporary change affects only the amount of fluoride Milwaukee Water Works adds during water treatment.

2. Why is this happening?

This is due to temporary supply chain issues affecting fluoride used in water treatment. Milwaukee Water Works' previous supplier chose not to renew its contract because of these challenges. Milwaukee Water Works issued a request for bids to secure a new supplier through the City's procurement process, but no bids were received.

3. What is Milwaukee Water Works doing?

Milwaukee Water Works is temporarily reducing fluoride added to drinking water to extend available supplies.

4. What is the current fluoride level?

Milwaukee Water Works currently adds fluoride to drinking water to maintain a fluoride level of approximately 0.6–0.7 milligrams per liter, or mg/L, consistent with public health recommendations.

5. What will the temporary fluoride level be?

Beginning Friday, July 31, 2026, fluoride levels will be reduced to approximately 0.3 mg/L.

6. Why does Milwaukee add fluoride to drinking water?

Milwaukee Water Works adds fluoride to drinking water as a routine public health measure to help prevent tooth decay. Milwaukee's current fluoride level of approximately 0.6 - 0.7 mg/L is consistent with public health recommendations.

7. Is this a water quality issue?

No. This is a temporary supply chain issue affecting fluoride treatment additives. Milwaukee's drinking water remains safe to drink.

8. Where else is fluoride found?

Fluoride occurs naturally in water at varying levels and is also found in everyday sources such as toothpaste, mouth rinse, and some foods and beverages. This temporary change affects only the amount of fluoride Milwaukee Water Works adds during water treatment.

9. Do residents need to take any action?

No action is needed related to drinking water. Residents should continue routine oral health practices, including brushing with fluoride toothpaste and receiving regular dental care.

Residents with specific questions about their oral health or fluoride needs should contact their dentist or health care provider.

10. Should residents use bottled water?

No. Residents do not need to use bottled water because of this temporary fluoride adjustment. Milwaukee's drinking water remains safe to drink.

11. Will I notice any change in the water?

No. Residents should not notice any change in the taste, odor, color, or appearance of Milwaukee's drinking water because of this temporary fluoride adjustment.

12. When will normal fluoride addition resume?

Normal fluoride addition will resume once a new vendor contract is in place and fluoride supplies are restored.