

Fluoridation of Drinking Water in the City of Salina

Since 1968, the City of Salina has participated in the public health practice to adjust the level of fluoride present in the drinking water for the community. Fluoride is a naturally occurring mineral in our water. When fluoride is adjusted to an optimal level, it has been proven to reduce the incidence of dental decay.

In the United States, 44 of the 50 largest cities adjust the level of fluoride in their drinking water. They are all regulated and monitored by several different entities to ensure public safety. There are 3 types of fluoride additives that are approved in the U.S. The City of Salina uses Sodium Fluorosilicate that has met the standards of the American Water Works Association (AWWA), National Sanitation Foundation-American National Standards Institute 60 (NSF-ANSI 60), and Underwriters Laboratories (UL). A volumetric feeder matches the fluoride feed level with the volume of water processed. The finished water is tested twice daily to maintain an optimal level of 0.7mg/L of fluoride, which is a ratio of how many parts (milligrams) are present in every million parts (liter) of water. This simply means per every million parts of water there is a 0.7 part of fluoride. Without this adjustment, the drinking water would be around 0.3mg/L. The 0.7mg/L is based on the findings of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the US Health and Human Services (HHS) in 2011.

The City of Salina's water system serves just under 50,000 people in Salina and surrounding areas. The cost of water fluoridation for Salina is between \$10-15,000 per year. For a family of four, it costs between \$.80-1.00 **per year**, to provide fluoridated water.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The City treats the water according to EPA's regulations.

The City of Salina's Water Treatment Plant consistently produces water that meets or exceeds all Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) standards for safe drinking water. Certified laboratories analyze water samples at various points in the treatment process on a daily basis. Samples are also obtained on a regular basis to ensure the water quality standard is maintained throughout Salina's water distribution system. In addition to the testing Salina is required to perform, the Water Division voluntarily tests for many additional substances and microscopic organisms to make certain the drinking water is safe and of high quality. Approximately 80,000 samples are taken and analyzed each year to provide quality assurance.

To find out more about community water fluoridation

<http://www.kdheks.gov/ohi/index.html>

<http://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/faqs/index.htm>

<http://water.epa.gov/drink/index.cfm>