

The Safe Drinking Water Act Prohibits Fluoridation in the United States

“SDWA applies to every public water system in the United States... States can apply to US EPA for ‘primacy,’ the authority to implement SDWA within their jurisdictions, if they can show that they will adopt standards at least as stringent as US EPA’s and make sure water systems meet these standards.”

– [“Understanding the Safe Drinking Water Act”](#) (EPA 2004)

SDWA “gives individual states the opportunity to set and enforce their own drinking water standards if the standards are at a minimum as stringent as EPA’s national standards.” ([EPA 2023](#))

[“SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT”](#)

Coverage: Section 1411 [p. 4]

“National primary drinking water regulations... shall apply to each public water system in each State.”

Standards: Section 1412(b)(11) [p. 15]

“No national primary drinking water regulation may require the addition of any substance for preventive health care purposes.”

State Primary Enforcement Responsibility: Section 1413(a)(1) [p. 22]

A State has primary enforcement responsibility for public water systems if it “has adopted drinking water regulations that are no less stringent than the national primary drinking water regulations” under 1412(b)

Adding any substance to public water supplies for “preventive health care purposes” is “less stringent,” which means it would be prohibited to add vitamin D to prevent rickets, lithium to prevent depression, vaccines to prevent COVID-19, or fluoride to prevent dental caries – CDC’s stated purpose:

CDC October 22, 1999 /48(41);933-940
**Achievements in Public Health, 1900-1999:
Fluoridation of Drinking Water to Prevent
Dental Caries**

Rejecting this rationale, EPA’s **interpretation** of Section 1412(b)(11) has become a “policy” that allows states, cities, and water systems to decide if they want to add fluoride to their drinking water.

“What is EPA’s official policy on the fluoridation of drinking water?”

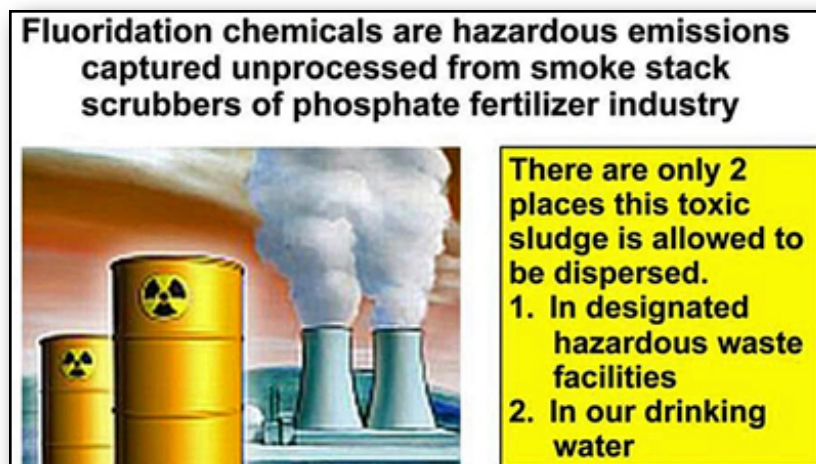
Response from Robert Perciasepe, Asst. Administrator of the EPA Office of Water:

“As you no doubt are aware, the Safe Drinking Water Act prohibits EPA from requiring or supporting the addition of any substance (including fluoride) to drinking water for preventive health care purposes. Those decisions are made on a State or local basis and do not directly involve EPA.”

– [Oversight of SDWA 2000](#)

In other words, EPA’s policy approves the addition of fluoride, an EPA-regulated water contaminant, to our drinking water.

“In regard to the use of fluosilicic acid as a source of fluoride for fluoridation, this Agency regards such use as an ideal environmental solution to a long-standing problem. By recovering by-product fluosilicic acid from fertilizer manufacturing, water and air pollution are minimized, and water utilities have a low-cost source of fluoride available to them.” [EPA Office of Water](#) (1983)



By selling their hazardous waste to water systems – and avoiding costly disposal fees – the “economic advantage” to the fertilizer industry is now over one-million dollars per day. “Money, Money, Money... seems to be a major reason why there is so little interest in Congress or EPA in stopping the addition” of fluoride chemicals to drinking water. – [Union of EPA Scientists](#) (2022) who voted to oppose fluoridation in 1997

Another [SDWA](#) Standard: Section 1412(b)(5) [p. 12]

It’s an “additional health risk” if a water contaminant is “increasing the concentration of other contaminants in drinking water.”

Fluoridation: Worsening the Lead Crisis in Flint, and Beyond ([FAN 2016](#))

Evidence shows that fluoridation chemicals leach lead into drinking water from brass plumbing materials (e.g. water meters, faucets, elbows). In fluoridated communities, the “prevalence of children with elevated blood lead... is about double that in non-fluoridated communities.” [[Coplan 2007](#)] This was confirmed by US Health & Nutrition Examination Surveys: “Children and adolescents who did not drink tap water had lower prevalence of elevated blood lead levels.” [[Sanders 2018](#)]

EPA’s “maximum contaminant level goal” for lead in drinking water is ZERO mg/L.

In stark contrast, fluoride’s MCLG is 4.0 mg/liter – even though:

EPA researchers found that fluoride has a 13-times greater negative impact than lead has on “children’s general cognitive ability” which “comprises a variety of correlated abilities including spatial and verbal abilities, information processing speed, and memory.” [[Nilsen 2020](#)]

It’s time to end the madness. Prohibiting the addition of fluoride to our drinking water **will be one of the greatest public health achievements of the 21st century.**