

## What's in the water?

The following data is a list of pollutants which are found in some water supplies. The first table is a breakdown of manufactured chemicals you may find in water taken from a river. The table is based on an analysis of treated drinking-water drawn from the river Severn in 1994.

### T = Type of Pesticide:

- F = Fungicide
- H = Herbicide
- I = Insecticide

### Ob = Observations:

- PoC = Possibly Carcinogenic to humans
- PrC = Probably Carcinogenic to humans
- SH = Slightly Hazardous
- MH = Moderately Hazardous

### Org = Organisations:

- IARC (International Agency for Research on Cancer)
- EPA (United States Environmental Protection Agency)
- WHO (World Health Organisation)

### Pollutants found in water supplies:

*NB. Carcinogenic means cancer-causing.*

Pesticide	T	Ob	Org
Trifluralin	H	PoC	EPA
Cypermethrin	I	PoC	EPA
""	""	MH	WHO
Chlorothalonil	F	PrC	EPA
Propiconazole	F	MH	WHO
MCPA	H	SH	WHO
""	""	PoC	IARC
""	""	PrC	EPA
Ioxynil	H	MH	WHO
Bromoxynil	H	MH	WHO
2, 4 DB	H	SH	WHO
* 2, 4 D	H	MH	WHO
""	""	PoC	IARC
*2,4,5 T (TCPA)	H	MH	WHO
""	""	PoC	EPA
Dichlorprop	H	SH	WHO
MCPB	H	SH	WHO

<b>Pesticide</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>Ob</b>	<b>Org</b>
2, 3, 6 TBA	-	SH	WHO
Atrazine	H	PoC	EPA
Terbutryn(e)	-	PoC	EPA
Permethrin	I	MH	WHO
Cyfluthrin	-	MH	WHO
Isoproturon	H	SH	WHO
Linuron	-	SH	WHO
Difenzoquat	-	MH	WHO
EPTC	-	MH	WHO
Triadimefon	F	SH	WHO
Flutriafol	-	SH	WHO

\*2,4D and 2,4,5T combined make 'Agent Orange'. This was used in the Vietnam war as a defoliant but some of the military personnel handling Agent Orange either developed cancer or fathered deformed babies (blamed on the chemical's dioxin content).

Observations are based on findings reported in the book, "P IS FOR Pesticides" (1991).

#### **Also found in water ...**

Aldrin, Carbetamide, Clopralid, Dichlobenil, Dieldrin, Diflubenzuron, Diuron, Endrin, Fenpropimorph, Flucofuron, Fluroxyper, Hexachlorobenzene, Iprodione, Methabenzthiuron, Prometryne, Propazine, Propyzamide, Simazine, Sulcofuron, Tecnazine, Trietazine

#### **Other supplies of water**

Other sources of water can be substantially less polluted. However, aluminium from water treatment and lead from plumbing can be found in even the least polluted supplies of water.

... and fluoride?

So what about the decades of pro-fluoridation propaganda which has told us that water fluoridation is "safe" and "effective"? The Americans have been drinking fluoridated water for many years and yet the Government doesn't even know what happens to artificial silicofluorides when they enter the water.

Finally, while fluoride exists in water (mostly) as a relatively insoluble fluoride ion (in cold water), or as calcium fluoride, it needs to be considered what happens when tap-water is boiled.

Exactly what occurs when water is heated to such a degree that the fluoride ion / component becomes unstable? And can it react with other chemicals in water to form dangerous fluorine-related compounds? There exists some very dangerous pollutants in some tap-water sources, especially when taken from rivers. No information seems to exist on this issue and this must be of concern to anyone whose tap-water is of a significantly poor quality.

**Useful links:**

[1] IRIS. IRIS is a database of human health effects that may result from exposure to various substances found in the environment: <http://www.epa.gov/iris/>

[2] Pesticide information: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/>

[3] Chemical information: <http://www.chemweb.com/>

[4] Chemical reference database: <http://www.chemfinder.com/>

[5] Pesticides Action Network and database: <http://www.pesticideinfo.org/>