



Englewood Water District

Chromium: Frequently Asked Questions

Englewood Water District (EWD) is committed to protecting and improving the quality of our drinking water. Part of this effort includes a commitment to proactively test our water supply for contaminants.

What is chromium?

Chromium is a natural metal which is common in the earth's crust. There are multiple forms of chromium, chromium-3 is a required nutrient for humans, whereas chromium-6 is thought to be harmful to human health when exposed to high levels.

Where does chromium in drinking water come from?

Naturally occurring levels of chromium in water could come from rocks, plants, or soil, and are usually at levels well below federal standards for drinking water. Industrial activities can also result in higher chromium levels in drinking water. Testing of EWD's water has shown a consistently low level of chromium over time.

Why is chromium in drinking water a concern?

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which regulates the safety of drinking water, is currently investigating whether chromium-6 is a health concern when ingested. This investigation will aid in determining whether a new drinking water standard is needed for chromium-6 versus the existing regulation for total chromium. Federal drinking water standards currently limit chromium-6 in drinking water by limiting the total amount of chromium that can be in the water at 100 parts per billion (ppb).

Does EWD test for chromium?

EWD tests for total chromium: In 2011 total chromium levels were 1.2 ppb and in 2014 total chromium levels were 0.34 ppb. In 2015 total chromium levels were 0.20 ppb and testing for total chromium will take place again in 2017.

Where can I find additional information?

Environmental Protection Agency: www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations/chromium-drinking-water .