

SAFETY AND HEALTH DATA

What are Phosphates?

Phosphates are Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved and safely used everyday as an additive in many of your favorite foods and drinks. Different blends of approved food-grade ortho and poly phosphates have proven to be effective in controlling corrosion, discolored water and calcium scale build-up in plumbing systems. Unhealthy levels of lead and copper can also be reduced.

Phosphate is a derivative of phosphorus, a mineral required in the food supply for all plants, animals and humans. Phosphorus is necessary for building strong bones and teeth. It is also needed for healthy nerves and for efficient mental activity.

Phosphorus is an essential nutrient. The recommended daily allowance (RDA) for adults is 800 mg. The RDA for children or women during pregnancy or lactation is 1,000 – 1,400 mg.

What types of food and beverages contain phosphates?

Phosphorus is naturally found in whole grains, seeds, nuts, legumes, dairy products, egg yolks, fish, dried fruits and corn. The food industry commonly adds phosphates to soft drinks, pasteurized cheeses and prepared cereals. Phosphates are also added to ham, bacon, turkey products, cakes, muffins and donuts. Phosphates make up about 25% of the total ingredients in toothpaste.

Are phosphates safe?

The FDA, National Sanitation Foundation (NSF), and the Center for Science in the Public Interest list phosphates as **COMPLETELY SAFE**.

Do water utilities use phosphates?

Yes, approximately 50% of water utilities nationwide safely use phosphates to control internal pipe corrosion. Many water utilities have been safely using phosphates since the passage of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Lead and Copper Rule (1992) to reduce lead and copper levels in tap water.

How much phosphate will be added during the water treatment process?

Research indicates that people usually consume 1,000 –1,500 mg. of phosphate per day in their diet. W.C. Service Company, Inc. usually adds a very minute level of 1-2 mg/l of phosphate to the potable water supply, increasing the average daily intake by a minute 0.1 – 0.2 %.