

Consumer Notice of Lead Tap Water Results

Public Water System: _____ PWS ID: _____
Sample Location: _____ Date Sampled: _____

Thank you for participating in the lead and copper tap monitoring program. The Safe Drinking Water Act requires that water systems provide a notice of the individual lead tap results to the occupants of the site where the tap was tested.

The level of lead found at your location was _____ mg/L.

What Does This Mean?

Under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act, EPA set the action level for lead in drinking water at 0.015 milligrams of lead per liter of water (mg/L). This means utilities must ensure that water from the customer's tap does not exceed this level in at least 90 percent of the sites sampled (90th percentile value). The action level is the concentration of the contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow to correct the problem. Because lead may pose serious health risks, the EPA set a Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) of zero for lead. The MCLG is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

What Are The Health Effects of Lead?

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems.

What Are Some Sources of Lead?

Although the primary sources of lead exposure for most children are deteriorating lead-based paint, lead-contaminated dust, and lead-contaminated soil, the U.S. EPA estimates that 10 to 20 percent of human exposure to lead may come from drinking water. Exposure to lead is a significant health concern, especially for young children and infants whose growing bodies tend to absorb more lead than the average adult. Although our facility's lead levels were below the action level, if you are concerned about lead exposure in your home, parents should ask their health care providers about testing children to determine levels of lead in their blood.

What Can I Do To Reduce Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water?

- *Run Your Water To Flush Out Lead.* Run water for 15-30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking. This flushes lead-containing water from the pipes.
- *Use Cold Water for Cooking and Preparing Baby Formula.* Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily in hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
- *Do not boil water to remove lead.* Boiling water will not reduce lead.
- *Look for alternative sources or treatment of water.* If your lead result is above 0.015 mg/L, you may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 800-NSF8010 or www.nsf.org for more information on performance standards for water filters.
- *Identify if your plumbing fixtures contain lead.* New faucets, fittings, and valves, may contain up to 8 percent lead including those advertised or labeled as "lead-free" and may contribute lead to drinking water. Consumers should be aware of this when choosing fixtures and take appropriate precautions.

For More Information

Call us at _____. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/lead, call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider.