

CONSUMER NOTICE: Lead Drinking Water Results

Public Water System: _____

Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

Thank you for your participation in lead tap monitoring. Below is the lead test result from the water sample collected from your location on ____/____/____. Please share this notice with everyone who uses or drinks the water.

_____ Lead **was detected** at _____ mg/L.

_____ Lead **was NOT** detected.

What does this mean?

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set an action level of 0.015 mg/L for lead.

An *action level* is the concentration of a chemical that, if exceeded, triggers additional treatment requirements that a water system must follow. This level is based on existing water treatment technology, not health studies. Utilities must ensure that water from the customer's tap does not exceed the action level in at least 90% of the homes sampled.

Is there a safe level of lead exposure?

Exposure to any level of lead poses potential health risks. The EPA has set a *maximum contaminant level goal* (MCLG) of 0 mg/L. The MCLG is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

How can I reduce my exposure to lead in drinking water?

1. Run water for 15-30 seconds to flush lead from plumbing.
Run water for up to five minutes if you have a lead service line or lead pipes in your home plumbing, or until it becomes cool and reaches a steady temperature.
2. Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.
Do not consume water from the hot water tap since lead dissolves more easily into hot water.
Do not boil water – this will not reduce lead.
3. Install a home treatment such as a water filter.
Make sure the filter selected is certified to reduce lead and be sure to replace filters according to the manufacturer's instructions.
4. Get your child's blood tested by your local health department or healthcare provider.
5. Identify and replace plumbing fixtures that contain lead.
Brass faucets, fittings, and valves may contribute lead to drinking water. Previous laws allowed brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 8% lead to be labeled as "lead free." As of January 4, 2014, fixtures, faucets, fittings and valves must meet the new "lead-free" definition and contain no more than 0.25% lead.

What are the sources of lead in drinking water?

- Lead is a common metal found in the environment. The EPA estimates that 10-20% of lead exposure comes from drinking water.
- Brass faucets, fittings and valves can contribute to lead in drinking water. When water travels through pipes or plumbing that contains lead, the lead may enter drinking water.
- Homes built before 1988 are more likely to have lead pipes or solder.
- The law currently allows pipes, fittings, and fixtures with up to 0.25% weighted average of lead to be identified as "lead-free."

Are there other sources of lead?

- Drinking water is one possible source of lead exposure, but other sources of exposure are lead-based paint and contaminated dust or soil.
- Lead can also be found in some types of pottery, pewter, food, some toys, playground equipment, children's metal jewelry, and cosmetics.
- Lead can be carried on clothing or shoes. To prevent lead from affecting your children, always wash their hands and toys after they are in contact with dust or dirt.

What are some of the health effects of lead exposure?

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women.

- 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.
- Lead can cause damage to the brain and kidneys.
- Lead can interfere with production of red blood cells that carry oxygen throughout the body.
- Lead is stored in the bones and can be released later in life.

For more information visit EPA's website at www.epa.gov/lead or contact your health care provider.

EPA Region 10 Lead Consumer Notice Certification Form

Public Water Systems that conduct lead monitoring must provide individual results to each location where samples were taken as soon as practical, **but no later than 30 days** after receiving sample results from the lab.

Public water systems must also provide EPA a copy of one consumer notice that was distributed and this certification form **no later than 90 days** after the end of the monitoring period.

Complete the section which corresponds to your water system type.

Community Water Systems:

- A lead consumer notice was mailed or directly delivered to each residence where a lead sample was taken. In multi-unit structures, each unit tested was notified.

Non-Community Water Systems:

- Lead consumer notices were posted at the following public locations:

_____.

I hereby affirm that lead consumer notices have been provided in accordance with the delivery, format and deadlines required in [40 CFR 141.85\(d\)](#), and included the following content:

1. The sample results of the tap tested.
2. An explanation of the health effects of lead.
3. Steps consumers can take to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water.
4. Contact information for the public water system.
5. The definitions and values of the lead maximum contaminant level goal and action level.

Water System Name

PWS ID#

Signature

Date

Email a copy of one consumer notice and this certification form **within 90 days** of the end of the monitoring period to R10TribalDW@epa.gov