



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

**Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber.
Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.
Por favor llámenos si necesita una copia en español.**

Utility Services of Illinois, Inc. - Del Mar Woods found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

What Does This Mean?

Under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act, USEPA set the action level for lead in drinking water at 15 ppb. This means utilities must ensure that water from the customer's tap does not exceed this level in at least 90 percent of the homes sampled (90th percentile value). *The action level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.* If water from the tap does exceed this limit, then the utility must take certain steps 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.*

If detected, your lead level may be due to conditions unique to your home, such as the presence of lead solder or brass faucets, fittings and valves that may contain lead. Lead is rarely found in source water but enters tap water through corrosion of plumbing materials. Homes built before 1986 are more likely to have lead pipes, fixtures, and solder. In addition, faucets and plumbing fixtures manufactured before January 4th, 2014 are more likely to have higher lead concentration. Our system works to keep the corrosivity of our water as low as possible (corrosive water can cause lead to leach from plumbing materials that contain lead) and there are actions you can take to reduce exposure.

Health Effects of Lead: Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones, and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development. EPA recommends that parents consult with a family physician if they have health concerns to have their child/children's blood tested for lead. EPA estimates that 10 to 20 percent of a person's potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water. Infants who consume mostly formula mixed with lead-containing water can receive 40 to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water. **Infants that drink formula prepared with lead-contaminated water are at a greater risk because of the large volume of water they drink relative to their body size.**

Sources of Lead: Lead is a common metal found in the environment. The main sources of lead exposure are lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust or soil, and some plumbing materials. In addition, lead can be found in certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics. Other sources include exposure in the workplace and exposure from certain hobbies (lead can be carried on clothing or shoes). Drinking water is also a possible source of lead exposure. Most sources of drinking water have no lead or very low levels of lead. Most lead gets into drinking water after the water leaves the local well or treatment plant and comes into contact with household plumbing materials containing lead. These include lead pipes, and lead solder (commonly used until 1986), as well as faucets, valves, and other components made of brass. Brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," or "low lead" may contribute lead to drinking water. Section 1417 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) defines "lead free" as a weighted average of 0.25% lead when used in respect to wetted surfaces of pipes, pipe fittings, plumbing fixtures and fittings, and 0.2% lead for solder and flux. To find out if you have Lead in your plumbing, please contact a certified plumber for inspection.

Steps You Can Take To Reduce Your Exposure To Lead In Your Water

If the level of lead found in your drinking water is above 15 ppb or if you are concerned about the lead levels at your location, there are several things you can do:

- ***Run your water to flush out lead.*** If water hasn't been used for several hours, run water from your kitchen tap or whatever tap you use for drinking and cooking for **at least 3 minutes** and it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking. This will help flush lead-containing water from the pipes. To conserve water, you can fill multiple containers after flushing for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula.
- ***Bottled drinking water should be used by pregnant women, breast-feeding women, young children, and formula-fed infants at homes where lead has been detected at levels greater than 15 ppb.***
- ***Use cold water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula. Do not*** cook with or drink water from the hot water tap, lead dissolves more easily into 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.***
- ***Test your water for lead.*** Call us at the number below to find out how to get your water tested for lead.

What happened? What is being done? The testing performed in July-September 2020 showed the 90th percentile level of lead at 22.5 ppb with 1 of 5 samples exceeding the action level. Samples were collected from residential sinks or faucets commonly used for water consumption and results indicate that 1 of the 5 locations tested had a lead level above the EPA Action Level of 15 ppb or 0.015 ppm. The high Lead level detected at this location was determined to be caused by Lead containing plumbing fixtures within the residential plumbing system. Additional samples were collected at the subdivision entry point and results showed lead concentration below a detectable level. Utility Services of Illinois, Inc. contracted Hawkins Inc to perform a Water Quality Simulation for Scale and Corrosion Control which included water quality testing for corrosivity and Lead corrosion protection. Based on laboratory analysis and non-detectable Lead levels in samples collected, the report concluded that there is adequate Lead corrosion protection in the water as tested and no further treatment is recommended. Utility Services of Illinois, Inc. will continue to sample at the increased frequency of once every six months in accordance with regulations to closely monitor the situation. Customers will be notified should the 90th percentile level exceed the lead action level. The distribution network in Del Mar was replaced with PVC water main and copper services from the watermain to property lines or curb stops between 2006 and 2008. However, household plumbing including customer owned service lines may still contain lead. To find out if you have Lead in your plumbing, please contact a certified plumber for inspection.

“Lead” Terminology

These terms have been used interchangeably in the water distribution industry although technically they are not the same:”

“No Lead” – This term is not defined in any regulations or standards pertaining to water works service brass. It is a misnomer often used in place of “Lead-Free” when discussing service brass. Even though the lead level is negligible, no service brass is completely free of lead.

“Low Lead” – This term refers to any product containing less than 8% lead as defined by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (FSDWA) amended in 1986.

“Lead Free” – This term refers to any product as not containing more than 0.02% lead when used with respect to solder and flux; and not more than a weighted average of 0.25% lead when used with respect to the wetted surfaces of pipes, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings and fixtures defined by the Federal Bill S.3874- (Jan 2014)

Call us at 800-831-2359 or visit our web site www.uiwater.com. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home / building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/lead, or contact your health care provider.