

Important Information About

Lead in your Drinking Water

The City of Tualatin found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes and 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.

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.

Sources of Lead

Lead is a common metal element. There are no lead service lines in the City of Tualatin distribution system. The main sources of lead in water are lead solder used to join copper pipes and brass plumbing fixtures and components. In homes built or plumbed with copper pipes before 1985, lead solder may have been used to join the pipes. When water stands for several hours or more in plumbing systems that contain lead, the lead may dissolve into your drinking water. Water that has been sitting in household pipes for several hours, such as in the morning or after returning from work or school, is most likely to contain lead. Other sources of lead include lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust or soils.



For More Information

Call us at 503-691-3095 or visit our website at www.tualatinoregon.gov/publicworks. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and buildings and the health effects of lead, visit the EPA's website at www.epa.gov/lead or contact your health care provider.



Information distributed February 2018

Reduce Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water & Household Plumbing



City of Tualatin

Para obtener una copia de esta información en español, llame al: 503-691-3761.

How Can I Reduce My Exposure to Lead?

Run your water to flush out lead

Before using water for drinking or cooking, run the water for 30 seconds to 2 minutes, or until it becomes colder from each tap when it has not been used for several hours. This flushes water, which may contain lead, from the pipes.

Use cold, fresh water for 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.

Test your water for lead

The Leadline provides a no-cost, in-home lead-in-water test kit for residential customers along with additional information about reducing exposure to lead. This is available through the Multnomah County Health Department to all Portland Water Bureau wholesale water customers, including the City of Tualatin. If you would like to have your home tested for lead, visit www.leadline.org or call 503-988-4000.

Do not boil water to remove lead

Boiling water will not reduce lead.

Consider using a filter

If you have elevated levels of lead in water, you may consider purchasing a water filter to remove it. Be sure it reduces lead - not all filters do. Always maintain and replace a filtration device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to protect water quality.

Test your child for lead

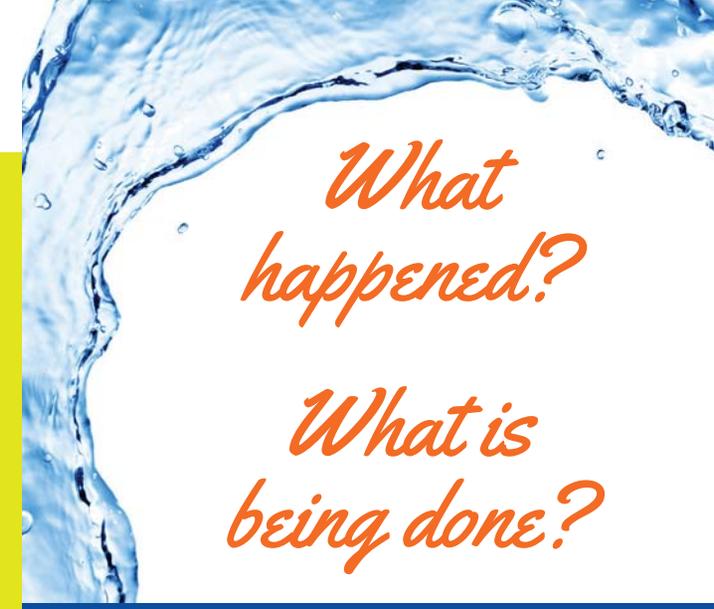
Ask your physician or call the Leadline (www.leadline.org or 503-988-4000) to find out how to have your child tested for lead. A blood lead level test is the only way to know if your child is being exposed to lead.

Regularly clean your faucet aerator

Particles containing lead from solder or household plumbing can become trapped in your faucet aerator. Regular cleaning every few months will remove these particles and reduce your exposure to lead.

Consider buying low-lead fixtures

As of January 2014, all pipes, fittings and fixtures are required to contain less than 0.25 percent lead. When replacing plumbing fixtures, look for those with the lowest lead content.



What happened?
What is being done?

Out of 70 homes that were sampled in October 2017, 8 homes exceeded the EPA lead action level of 15 parts per billion. One part per billion (ppb) in water means one drop in one billion drops of water or about one drop of water in a swimming pool. When more than 10 percent of these homes are above the action level, the City of Tualatin is required to notify the public and implement corrective actions.

The City of Tualatin purchases its water from Portland. The Portland Water Bureau is in the process of improving Corrosion Control Treatment that will be in place no later than Spring 2022.

