

LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

PUBLIC EDUCATION

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER.

North Beach Water District found elevated levels of lead above the action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb) or 0.015 milligrams per liter (mg/L) in drinking water in some homes/buildings on our water system. 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 is Lead? Lead is a common metal found throughout the environment in lead-based paint, air, soil, household dust, food, certain types of pottery, porcelain, and pewter, and in 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. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development. 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.

How Lead Gets into Water

Lead in drinking water most often comes from water distribution lines or household plumbing rather than from the water system source. **Water that sets in homes that is in contact with plumbing fixtures, soldered pipes stands idle in this condition and absorbs the mineral content of these materials.** North Beach Water District has tested the source water and distribution system. Go to our website at www.northbeachwater.com to see results or stop by the North Beach Water District office for a copy.

Plumbing sources can include lead pipes, lead solder, faucets, valves, and other components made of brass. Lead from other sources (such as lead-based paint and contaminated dust or soil) can increase a person's overall exposure, which adds to the effects of lead consumed in drinking water.

How you can reduce exposure:

- When your water has been sitting for 6 hours or more, flush water through the pipe by running the cold-water tap until the water is noticeably colder* before using for drinking or cooking. **The longer water has been sitting in the pipes, the more dissolved metals it may contain.**
- * You can use the flushed water for watering plants, washing dishes, or general cleaning.
- Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Hot water may contain higher levels of lead. Boiling water can increase the level of lead in the water.
- Frequently clean the filter screens and aerators in faucets to remove captured particles.

- If building or remodeling, only use “lead free” or low lead piping and materials. Avoid using copper piping or brass fixtures for locations where water will be consumed or used in food preparation (such as kitchen or bathroom sinks).
- Parents can have their child’s blood tested for lead. Please contact your healthcare provider to perform this test. Further information on lead levels found in blood can be found at The Department of Health’s web page, <https://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/HealthyHome/Contaminants/Lead/Testing>.

What are we doing about it?

We are required to develop and implement a program to minimize how corrosive our water is to help reduce the levels of lead in customer taps. North Beach Water District has tested the source and distribution system. Go to our website at www.northbeachwater.com to see the recent results.

In order to do this, we are required to:

- 1) Conduct a public education program. **North Beach Water District will hold a public meeting. DECEMBER 29th, 2023, at 11:00 AM. Here at the North Beach Water District Office.**
- 2) Hire a professional engineer to evaluate our water to determine what type of treatment might work best.

We may be required to:

- 3) Install corrosion control treatment (treating the water to make it less likely that lead will dissolve into the water) or
- 4) Treat our source water (removing any lead that is in the water at the time it leaves our treatment facility).

For more information, call us at 360-665-4144, or visit our Web site at www.northbeachwater.com. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA’s Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/lead> or contact your health care provider.

Information on lead in drinking water is available from EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or online: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

You may also access Washington State Department of Health’s Office of Drinking Water website at <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/laboratorysearch/Default.aspx>.

If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested.

Some State-approved drinking water laboratories in your area that you can call to have your water tested are:

BSK Associates Vancouver, WA Call 360-750-0055

ALS Environmental ALS Group USA, Corp Call 360-577-7222