

# Consumer Notice of Tap Water Result

Consumer Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*[Insert consumer name]*

Consumer Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*[Insert consumer address]*

Dear Consumer,

The \_\_\_\_\_ *(Insert water system name)* is a public water system (PWS) responsible for providing drinking water that meets state and federal standards. A drinking water sample for lead was collected at this location and the result is:

**Amount of Lead in Water:** \_\_\_\_\_ micrograms per liter (ug/L)  
*[Insert lead level result in ug/L]*

Location of sample: \_\_\_\_\_  
*[Insert location where lead sample collected, e.g., kitchen sink]*

Sample collection date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*[Insert date lead sample collected]*

PWS's Lead 90<sup>th</sup> Percentile Value: \_\_\_\_\_ ug/L  
*[Insert lead 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value in ug/L]*

**Action Level for Lead:** 15 micrograms per liter (ug/L)

**What Is Being Done?** *[check one and explain as necessary]*

\_\_\_\_\_ Our 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value for lead does not exceed the action level, therefore, there are no actions being implemented at this time other than sharing this consumer notice.

\_\_\_\_\_ Our 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value for lead does exceed the action level,

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*[If PWS exceeds the lead action level, then the PWS shall explain actions being implemented, such as providing public education, testing the water for corrosivity, developing and/or implementing corrosion treatment, or any other action being taken.]*

## What Does This Mean?

Under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established the action level for lead in drinking water at 15 ug/L. This means PWSs must ensure that water from taps used for human consumption does not exceed this level in at least 90 percent of the sites sampled (90 percentile value). The action level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a PWS must follow. Because lead may pose serious health risks, the U.S. EPA established 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?

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.

## What Can I Do To Reduce Exposure to Lead if Found in My Drinking Water?

**Run your water to flush out lead.** If water has not been used for several hours, run water for thirty seconds to two minutes before using it for drinking or cooking. This helps flush any lead in the water that may have been leached from the plumbing.

**Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Do not cook with, drink water, or make baby formula from the hot water tap. Lead dissolves more easily in hot water.

**Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead.

***You may wish to test your water for lead at additional locations in your home. Identify if your plumbing fixtures contain lead and consider replacing them when appropriate.***

## What Are The Sources of Lead?

Lead is a common, natural, toxic, and often useful metal that was used for years in products found around the home. It can be found throughout the environment in lead-based paint, air, soil, household dust, and certain types of pottery, porcelain, and pewter. Although most lead exposure, especially in children, occurs when paint chips are ingested, dust inhaled, or absorbed from contaminated soil, the U.S. EPA estimates that 10 to 20 percent of human exposure of lead may come from lead in drinking water.

Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like rivers and lakes. Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the plumbing. Buildings built prior to 1986 are more likely to have lead pipes, fixtures, and solder. New buildings can also be at risk, since even legally 'lead-free' plumbing may contain up to 8 percent lead. The most common problem is with brass or chrome-plated brass fixtures which can leach significant amounts of lead into water, especially hot water.

**For More Information Please Contact:** [Redacted] *[Insert contact information for your PWS]*, visit US EPA's Web site at [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead), call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424LEAD, or contact your health care provider.

