What you should know about lead in drinking water

If present, elevated lead levels can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Fort Worth’s drinking water does not contain lead when it leaves the treatment plant.

Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing.

Fort Worth is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components.

When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by running or flushing your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using the tap water for drinking or cooking.

If you are concerned about lead in your water, the Fort Worth Water Department Laboratory offers testing to our customers. The cost is $15 per sample. Call 817-392-4477 to make the arrangements.

Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize your exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Fort Worth has been on reduced monitoring for lead and copper, meaning we sample 50 homes every three years. In 2009, we were asked by the regulatory agency to add one apartment complex, one day care and one school to the sampling.

Compliance sampling was performed in 2016 and will be conducted again in 2019.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contaminant</th>
<th>Year of testing</th>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>90th percentile</th>
<th># of sites exceeding action level</th>
<th>Action Level</th>
<th>Common Sources of Substance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lead</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>ppb</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>ppm</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

90th Percentile Value:
90 percent of the samples were at or below this value. EPA considers the 90th percentile value the same as an “average” value for other contaminants. Lead and copper are regulated by a treatment technique that requires systems to control the corrosiveness of their water. If more than 10% of tap water samples exceed the action level, water systems must take additional steps.

Action Level:
The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Eliminating lead plumbing is a shared responsibility

EPA defines the service line as from the main to the point it enters the home. There is a shared ownership.

The utility owns the portion from the main to the meter, including the meter.

The property owner is responsible for the line exiting the meter and all plumbing and fixtures inside the home.
Fort Worth working to eliminate city-owned lead service lines

The Fort Worth Water Department’s goal is to eliminate all city-owned lead service lines, but it will take many years to achieve.

In April 2016, the water department began obtaining GPS coordinates for every water meter and recording the service line material on both sides of the meter.

About one-third of the meters have been checked so far. The water department is systematically using billing cycles and routes to ensure every meter is touched.

The priority is to complete the meters within Loop 820 first because these older areas are where lead service lines are more likely to be found. Homes built after 1988 would not have lead service lines. As of May 9, about 25 percent of the meters in the entire city and 32 percent inside Loop 820 have been checked.

So far 436 lead service lines have been found on the city side of the meter and eight on the customer side. Lead has not been found in any location on both sides of the meter.

Property owners and tenants, where applicable, are being notified by letter when a lead service line is found.

The Water Department is striving to have 50 percent of the meters inventoried by Sept. 30, 2017.

In addition, field crews are replacing lead service lines found in the course of maintenance work. If customers are home, contact is made and a packet of information is provided. The crew also works with the customer to remove faucet aerators and run the taps for a few minutes.

If the customer is not home, information that a lead service line was replaced is left along with instructions on how to run fresh water through their taps.

Learn more at: www.FortWorthTexas.gov/water/lead