



LEAD IN DRINKING WATER



Notification of possible elevated lead levels in your drinking water from the Bristol Water Department.



CURRENT RESIDENT
Address
Town state zip



BRISTOL WATER DEPARTMENT
PO BOX 58
BRISTOL, CT 06011-0058



THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) and the Bristol Water Department are concerned about lead in your drinking water. Some drinking water samples taken from our distribution system have lead levels above the EPA action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb), or 0.015 milligrams of lead per liter of water (mg/L). Under federal law we are required to have a program in place to minimize lead in your drinking water.

This program includes:

- 1) Corrosion control treatment (treating the water to make it less likely that lead will dissolve into the water); by March 31, 2008.
- 2) Source water treatment (removing any lead that is in the water at the time it leaves our treatment facility); by March 31, 2008.
- 3) A public education program by November 28, 2006.

We may also be required to replace the portion of each lead service line that we own if the line contributes lead concentrations of more than 15 ppb after we have completed the comprehensive treatment program.

How does lead get into my drinking water?

Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminations in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like rivers and lakes. Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and household plumbing. Lead can be found in some metal water taps, interior water pipes, or pipes connecting a house to the main water pipe in the street (service lines). Other materials that contain lead include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, and brass and chrome-plated brass faucets. In 1986, Congress banned the use of lead solder containing greater than 0.2% lead, and restricted the lead content of faucets, pipes and other plumbing materials to 8.0%.

When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into your drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning, or later in the afternoon if the water has not been used all day, can contain fairly high levels of lead.

Lead leaches into water through corrosion of:
Pipes * Solder * Fixtures
Faucets * Fittings



You can consult a variety of sources for additional information.

Bristol Water Department at [582-7431](tel:582-7431), the Water Treatment Plant at [583-6504](tel:583-6504) or Department of Public Health Drinking Water Section at [509-7333](tel:509-7333) can provide you with information about your community's water supply, and a list of local laboratories that have been certified by EPA for testing water quality or see us on the web at www.bristolwaterdept.org

Bristol/Burlington Health District at [584-7682](tel:584-7682) or Department of Public Health Lead Poisoning Prevention & Control Department at [509-7299](tel:509-7299) can provide you with information about the health effects of lead and how you can have your child's blood tested. Your family doctor or pediatrician can also provide information regarding lead and perform a blood test for lead, if required.

What are the health effects of lead?

Lead is a common, natural, and often useful metal found throughout the environment in lead-based paint, air, soil, household dust, food, certain types of pottery, porcelain, pewter, solder and water. Lead can pose a significant risk to your health if too much of it enters your body.

Lead builds up in the body over many years and can cause damage to the brain, red blood cells and kidneys. The greatest risk is to young children and pregnant women.

Amounts of lead that won't hurt adults can slow

down normal mental and physical development of growing bodies. In addition, a child at play often comes into contact with sources of lead contamination—like dirt and dust—that rarely affect an adult. It is important to wash children's hands and toys often, and to try to make sure they only put food in their mouth.

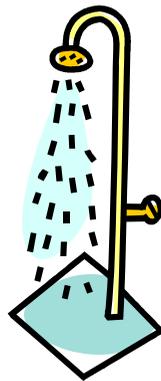


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Lead in drinking water, although rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, can significantly increase a person's total lead exposure, particularly the exposure of infants who drink baby formulas and concentrated juices that are mixed with water. EPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20 percent or more of a person's total exposure to lead.



The EPA action level for lead is set very low to notify the water department that there are possible corrosion problems. The level is not directly related to lead levels in blood. Elevated lead levels in water are only one of many sources of lead for people.



Is it safe to take a bath or shower?

Bathing and showering is safe for you and your children, even if the water contains lead over EPA action level. Our skin does not absorb lead in water.

Quick Tips to Reduce Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water

1. **FLUSH YOUR SYSTEM.** Let the water run from the tap before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in a faucet has gone unused for more than six hours. The longer water stays in water pipes, the more lead may have dissolved out of the lead pipes or solder. "Flushing" means running the cold water faucet for about 15-30 seconds. Although toilet flushing or showering flushes water through a portion of the plumbing system, you still need to flush the water in each faucet before using it for drinking or cooking. Flushing tap water is a simple and inexpensive measure you can take to protect your health, it usually uses less than one to two gallons, at a cost of less than 1 cent.
2. **USE ONLY COLD WATER FOR COOKING AND DRINKING.** Do not cook with, or drink water from the hot water tap. Hot water can dissolve lead more quickly than cold water. If you need hot water, draw water from the cold tap and then heat it.
3. **USE BOTTLED WATER.** The steps described above will reduce the lead concentrations in your drinking water. However, if you are still concerned you may wish to use bottled water for drinking and cooking

Because of our concern regarding the possibility of lead in your drinking water, we are offering to provide water testing to anyone who receives water from the Bristol Water Department, at a cost of \$10.00 per test. If you are interested in testing your drinking water please complete this form and mail it to the Bristol Water Department at PO Box 58, Bristol, CT 06011-0058. Someone from the Water Department will provide you with testing materials.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE: _____

TIME AVAILABLE _____