

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

Mount  
Werner  
Water



Public Water System ID: CO 0154524  
System Name: Mount Werner Water and Sanitation District

Mount Werner Water and Sanitation District (the District) found elevated levels of lead in the 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 found in the environment. Drinking water is one possible source of lead exposure. The main sources of lead exposure are lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust or soil, and some plumbing materials. In addition, lead can be found in certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics. Other sources include exposure in the workplace and exposure from certain hobbies (lead can be carried on clothing or shoes).

Brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free", may contribute lead to drinking water. The law currently allows end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to eight percent lead to be labeled as "lead free". However, plumbing fixtures labeled National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certified may only have up to two percent lead. Consumers should be aware of this when choosing fixtures and take appropriate precautions.

When water is in contact with pipes or plumbing that contains lead for several hours, the lead may enter drinking water. Homes built before 1986 are more likely to have plumbing containing lead. New homes may also have lead; even "lead-free" plumbing may contain some lead. EPA estimates that 10 to 20 percent of a person's potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water. Infants who consume mostly formula mixed with lead-containing water can receive 40 to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water.

## Steps You Can take to Reduce Your Exposure to Lead in Water

1. **Run your water to flush out lead.** If it hasn't been used for several hours, run the cold water tap until the temperature is noticeably colder. This flushes lead-containing water from the pipes. To conserve water, remember to catch the flushed tap water for plants or some other household use (e.g. cleaning).
2. **Always use cold water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula.** Never cook with or drink water from the hot water tap. Never use water from the hot water tap to make formula.
3. **Do not boil water to remove lead. Boiling water will not reduce lead.**
4. **Periodically remove and clean the faucet's strainer/aerator.** While removed, run the water to remove debris.
5. **You may consider investing in a home water treatment device or alternative water source.** When purchasing a water treatment device, make sure it is certified under Standard 53 by NSF International to remove lead. Contact NSF at 1-800-NSF-8010 or visit [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org). You may also visit the Water Quality Association's website at [www.wqa.org](http://www.wqa.org).
6. **Test your water for lead.** Call us at the number below to find out how to get your water tested for lead. A list of certified laboratories is listed at [www.colorado.gov/cdphe/laboratory-certification-program](http://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/laboratory-certification-program). Included on this list is the Colorado State University (CSU) Routt County Extension: (970) 879-0825
7. **Get your child's blood tested.** Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about exposure.
8. **Identify and replace plumbing fixtures containing lead.** Identify and replace plumbing fixtures containing lead. Brass faucets, fittings and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," may leach lead into drinking water. The NSF website at [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org) has more information on lead-containing plumbing fixtures.

## What Happened & What is Being Done?

Lead can become present within the potable drinking water as it is distributed throughout customer owned household plumbing, especially in multi-family homes constructed between 1983 and 1987 and single family homes constructed up to 1987. The District has worked closely with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to conduct water quality monitoring at addresses that have been identified to have lead fixtures and/or plumbing in order to better determine the corrosivity of the water supply so that it can be adequately adjusted to minimize the risk of lead entering the customer's water.

You are receiving this letter because you are listed as the representative for this property address on your account. This letter is to inform you and those within your household, facility, or organization that an action level exceedance occurred in the second sampling period of 2022. An action level exceedance occurs when results of the specified sampling pool for lead and copper in household plumbing is greater than the state recommended threshold of 0.015 mg/L (15 ppb).

Currently the District is providing educational materials to *all* customers within our distribution system, as well as facilities outside of our District as specified by CDPHE. **Receiving this letter does not mean your plumbing or water is at risk of elevated lead or copper levels but is being distributed as notice of ways to mitigate lead and copper exposure through household plumbing.** The District is continually monitoring our treatment practice to ensure that safe drinking water is provided to our customers. For more information on how the District is working to implement treatment alternatives to minimize the corrosion potential of the potable water, please visit our website at [mwwater.com](http://mwwater.com).

### For More Information

For more information call us at (970) 879-2424 or visit our website at: [mwwater.com](http://mwwater.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.

**Notice Provided by: Frank Alfone, General Manager**

**Date: January 30, 2023**