



# Aqua Wants Our Customers to Be Informed.

Here's what you should know about lead and drinking water.

Lead is not typically found in the streams, reservoirs or wells that serve as water supplies or in the main water lines that carry water from treatment plants to homes. Yet, the chemical properties of water can cause lead and other metals to leach into drinking water. The main source of lead in drinking water is from lead service lines (the pipes that deliver water from water mains in the street and into homes) and from typical household plumbing (lead solder and brass fixtures) that contains lead. Households that have, or suspect having, lead service lines or lead in their household plumbing are strongly encouraged to replace them. The use of lead in solder was prohibited after 1986, so buildings constructed after then should not have contained lead in the solder.

## How Aqua protects its customers:

Water utilities, including Aqua, treat drinking water to reduce the chance for metals to leach into the water. Aqua conducts required testing for drinking water contaminants, including lead and copper, to ensure compliance with state and federal drinking water standards. Aqua tests the water at our treatment plants, and also schedules customer tap sampling and tests for lead in potential high-risk areas, to comply with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) lead and copper rule.

You can always view your community's test results. They are summarized in our annual water quality reports, which are produced for every water system we own and operate.



Call us at 877.987.2782 for more information.



You can find your community's water quality report at [AquaAmerica.com](http://AquaAmerica.com).

More helpful information on the back





## If you are a residential customer:

You should know that there are parts of the service line bringing water to your home that are Aqua's property (the pipe that goes from our water main in the street to your curb) and parts of the service line that are your property (the pipe that goes from your curb to your home). When we encounter lead service lines during our maintenance and construction activities, we will replace Aqua's portion and notify the customer of our actions. We will also let you know if we observe lead in your service line. If you have concerns regarding your portion of the service line, or your plumbing, we recommend that you have a licensed plumber check the pipes that are your property. This is important to know, because lead service lines can be a source of lead in tap water. See the section below on "what you can do" for minimizing your risk if this happens.

**If your property has lead pipes or fixtures, it's important to be aware of major line disturbances, such as main breaks and repairs – that could alter water flow or pressure – boil water and system pressure advisories, or new water main installations. When lead pipes or fixtures are disturbed, it can result in elevated lead levels in your water. To help prevent this from happening, clean all the screens in your faucets and flush your plumbing system after any disturbances.**



## If you are a school or day care center:

You should know that the EPA has established more stringent sampling procedures for schools and day care centers. Because children often drink from fountains and faucets at school without flushing the water first, and because they are at higher risk of health effects due to exposure, for their protection, sampling is done differently at schools and day care centers.

**Aqua suggests that you call the EPA's safe drinking water hotline at 800.426.4791 or email them using this URL: <https://safewater.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/requests/new>.**

**It's important for any testing you do to be conducted using EPA protocols, so that the results are meaningful.**

## 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 the body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children and pregnant women.

If you are concerned about lead exposure:

- Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead.
- Visit the EPA at [EPA.gov/lead](https://www.epa.gov/lead) for more information on the health effects of lead or reducing lead exposure in your home.
- Call Aqua at 877.987.2782 for information about testing your water.

## What you can do:

If your home's water shows elevated levels of lead, or if you are concerned about the potential of lead in your water, below are ways you can minimize your exposure.

- **Run your tap to flush out lead.** If your water hasn't been used for several hours, run your water for a few minutes or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before drinking or cooking.
- **Use cold water to cook or prepare baby formula. Don't boil water to reduce lead.** Lead dissolves more easily into hot water and boiling will concentrate the lead. Boiling water won't reduce lead.
- If you buy a water filter for lead removal, make sure it's approved to reduce lead. Contact NSF International, [www.NSF.org](http://www.NSF.org).