

DRINKING WATER WARNING

Sampling shows elevated lead levels in some homes and/or buildings.

Our water system, [Water System Name], recently found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children.

Between [Month/Year] and [Month/Year], we collected [insert # of samples] samples and analyzed them for lead. The 90th percentile calculated from these results was [Insert 90th Percentile in ppb]. This 90th percentile exceeded 15 ppb which is the action level for lead. This means that at least 10 percent of the samples collected showed concentrations that were greater than the action level for lead. We are notifying you of the actions we will take to resolve this situation and the steps you can take if you are concerned about lead in your drinking water. We may also have tested your home or building during this period. If we did, you should receive or may have already received these results. These results are specific to your home/building and may be different from the results taken in other locations.

What should I do?

On the back of this notice, there are recommended actions that you may take, separately or in combination, if you are concerned about lead in your drinking water. The list also includes where you may find more information and is not intended to be a complete list or to imply that all actions equally reduce lead from drinking water.

What does this mean?

Lead from service lines, lead plumbing, and fixtures can dissolve or break off into water and end up at the faucet. An action level exceedance does not mean that every tap served by our water system has lead in the drinking water. It does mean that you should understand how to reduce your exposure to lead through water. Keep in mind that drinking water is not the only potential source of lead exposure, since lead can be found in air, soil, and paint. For more information on all sources of lead, visit <https://www.epa.gov/lead>.

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems.

What is Being Done?

[Describe corrective action]. We anticipate resolving the problem within [estimated timeframe].

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

For more information, please contact:

Responsible Person	System Name	System Address (Street)
Phone Number	System Number	System Address (City, State, Zip)

Violation Awareness Date: _____

Date Notice Distributed: _____

Method of Distribution: _____

Public Notification Certification

The public water system named above hereby affirms that public notification has been provided to its consumers in accordance with all delivery, content, format, and deadline requirements specified in 15A NCAC 18C .1523.

Owner/Operator: _____
(Signature) (Print Name) (Date)

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Recommended Actions to reduce your exposure to lead through water

- **Use a filter certified to remove lead.** Using a filter can reduce lead in drinking water. If you use a filter, it should be certified to remove lead. Read any directions provided with the filter to learn how to properly install, maintain, and use your cartridge and when to replace it. Using the cartridge after it has expired can make it less effective at removing lead. Do not run hot water through the filter. For more information, visit EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/home-drinking-water-filtration-fact-sheet> and EPA's Consumer Tool for [Identifying Drinking Water Filters Certified to Reduce Lead](#).
- **Clean your aerator.** Regularly remove and clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator). Sediment, debris, and lead particles can collect in your aerator. If lead particles are caught in the aerator, lead can get into your water.
- **Use cold water.** Do not use hot water from the tap for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula as lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Boiling water does not remove lead from water.
- **Learn what your service line material is.** Contact us at [\[phone number and/or email address\]](#) or a licensed plumber to determine if the pipe that connects your home to the water main (called a service line) is made from lead, galvanized, or other materials. **[For systems replacing lead service lines consider the following text.]** To find out about what we are doing to replace lead service lines, please visit [\[website\]](#) or contact us at [\[phone number and/or email address\]](#). Protect Your Tap: A quick check for lead, EPA's on-line step by step guide to learn how to find lead pipes in your home, is available at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/protect-your-tap-quick-check-lead>.
- **[Areas prone to drought or currently experiencing scarcity of water may want to omit or edit this recommendation.] Run your water.** The more time water has been sitting in your home's pipes, the more lead it may contain. Before drinking, flush your home's pipes by running the tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or doing a load of dishes. The amount of time to run the water will depend on whether your home has a lead service line or not, as well as the length and diameter of the service line and the amount of plumbing in your home. **[Include tailored flushing information, if appropriate, or add following language]** Residents may contact us at [\[phone number and/or email address\]](#) for recommendations about flushing times in their community.
- **Learn about construction in your neighborhood.** Contact us at [\[phone number and/or email address\]](#) to find out about any construction or maintenance work that could disturb your service line. Construction may cause more lead to be released from a lead service line if present.
- **Have your water tested.** Contact us at [\[phone number and/or email address\]](#) to have your water tested and to learn more about the lead levels in your drinking water.
- **Get Your Child Tested to Determine Lead Levels in His or Her Blood.** A family doctor or pediatrician can perform a blood test for lead and provide information about the health effects of lead. State, city, or county departments of health can also provide information about how you can have your child's blood tested for lead. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that public health actions be initiated when the level of lead in a child's blood is 3.5 micrograms per deciliter (µg/dL) or more. For more information and links to CDC's website, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>.

Description of Violation or Situation - A lead **action level exceedance (ALE)** occurs when the 90th percentile concentration of lead is greater than 15 parts per billion (ppb) or 0.015 mg/L.

You must provide public notice to persons served **as soon as practical but no more than 24 hours** after learning of the lead ALE [40 CFR 141.202(b)]. During this time, you must also contact the NC Public Water Supply Section. You should also coordinate with your local health department. It is recommended that you notify health professionals in the area of the situation. People may call their doctors with questions about how the situation may affect their health, and the doctors should have the information they need to respond appropriately.

You must use one or more of the following methods to deliver the notice to consumers [40 CFR 141.202(c)]:

- Radio
- Television
- Hand or direct delivery
- Posting in conspicuous locations
- Another method approved in writing by the state

You may need to use additional methods (e.g., newspaper, delivery of multiple copies to hospitals, clinics, or apartment buildings), since notice must be provided in a manner reasonably calculated to reach all persons served. If you post or hand deliver, print your notice on your system's letterhead, if you have it.

You must also perform the following:

- Notify new billing customers or units prior to or at the time their service begins.
- Provide multi-lingual notifications if 30% of the residents served are non-English speaking.
- Comply with any additional public notification requirements (including any repeat notices or direction on the duration of the posted notices) that are established as a result of the consultation with the State.

This notice template is appropriate for hand delivery or for publication in a newspaper. However, you may wish to modify it before using it for a radio or TV broadcast. If you modify the notice, you must still include all required public notice elements from 40 CFR 141.205(a) and leave the mandatory language unchanged (see below).

Mandatory Language - Mandatory language on health effects (from Appendix B to 40 CFR 141 Subpart Q) must be included as written and is presented in this notice in ***bold italics***. You will need to update the highlighted information presented in brackets with the appropriate information. You must also include standard language to encourage the distribution of the public notice to all persons served, where applicable [40 CFR 141.205(d)]. This language is also presented in this notice in ***bold italics***.

Alternative Sources of Water - If you are selling or providing bottled water, your notice should say where it can be obtained. Remember that bottled water can also be contaminated. If you are providing bottled water, make sure it meets US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and/or state bottled water safety standards.

Corrective Action - In your notice, you must describe corrective actions you are taking [40 CFR 141.205(a)(7)] and when you expect to return to compliance or resolve the situation [40 CFR 141.205(a)(8)]. Listed below are some steps commonly taken by water systems with a lead ALE. Depending on the corrective action you are taking, you can use one or more of the following statements, if appropriate, or develop your own text:

- We balance water chemistry at the treatment plant to minimize pipe and plumbing components from corroding and leading to the possibility of lead dissolving into water. This process is known as corrosion control. We are completing an assessment of the corrosion control treatment currently used by our water system.
- We are working to determine which corrosion control treatment strategy would be most effective in addressing this situation.
- We are removing the lead service lines, which is a common source of lead in drinking water.
- We are conducting additional lead and/or water quality monitoring of our water system supply.
- We are increasing our lead monitoring to determine the extent of the situation.
- We are making **[point-of-use or pitcher]** filters available to customers **[describe availability such as who may obtain a filter and where]**.
- We are investigating and removing lead-containing plumbing materials within the facility (or installing water filters at locations impacted by lead-containing plumbing).

After Issuing the Notice [40 CFR 141.31(d)] - After issuing the "Notice to the Public" to your customers, sign and date the "Public Notification Certification" at the bottom of the notice. Within 24 hours of learning of the exceedance [CFR 141.31(d)], submit a copy of the notice through the Special Public Notice (SPN) module in ECERT at <https://pws.ncwater.org/ECERT> and email a copy of the notice to LeadALE@epa.gov. The certification and submittal can be completed by any water system representative, but should be done by someone who was involved with the notification process. If certification cannot be completed within the 24 hour period, the notice can instead be emailed to pwss.lcr@deg.nc.gov within this period and then submitted to ECERT with the completed certification within 10 days.