

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER



[Insert name of water system] 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. Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

Health Effects of 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.

Sources of Lead: Lead is a common metal found in the environment. 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 work place and exposure from certain hobbies (lead can be carried on clothing or shoes). Drinking water is also a possible source of lead exposure. Most sources of drinking water have no lead or very low levels of lead. Most lead gets into drinking water after the water leaves the local well or treatment plant and comes into contact with household plumbing materials containing lead. These include lead pipes, and lead solder (commonly used until 1986), as well as faucets, valves, and other components made of brass. Brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as “lead-free,” may contribute lead to drinking water. 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 Your Drinking Water:

Steps	Reason
Run your water to flush out lead.	If water hasn’t been used for several hours, run water for at least 15-30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking. Note: You may want to capture the initial running water for uses other than drinking or cooking, such as for watering the plants.
Regularly clean faucet aerators	Remove particulate matter that may contain lead.
Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.	Lead dissolves more easily into hot water.
Do not boil water to remove lead.	Boiling water will not reduce lead.
Look for alternative sources or treatment of water.	You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 1-800-NSF-8010 or www.nsf.org for performance standards for water filters.
Test your water for lead.	Call us at [water system’s phone #] to find out how to get your water tested for lead, if any fees apply, and the location of labs that perform private testing.
Get your child 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.
Identify if your plumbing fixtures contain lead (replace, if necessary).	Brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as “lead-free,” may contribute lead to drinking water. The law currently allows end-use fixtures, such as faucets, with wetted surfaces containing a maximum weighted average of 0.25% lead to be labeled as “lead-free.” Note: Prior to January 4, 2014, fixtures could contain up to 8% lead and be labeled as “lead free.” Visit the NSF Web site at www.nsf.org to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures.

What happened? What is being done? [Insert information about how and when the exceedance was discovered in your community and provide information on the source(s) of lead, in the drinking water, if known. Explain why there are elevated levels of lead in your system’s drinking water (if known) and describe what your system is doing to reduce the lead levels in homes/buildings in your community.]

For More Information call us at **[water system’s phone #]**, or (if applicable) visit our Web site at [insert Web site here]. 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.

Public Education on Lead in Drinking Water

(Water system to fill in the blanks below)

Water System Name:

Water System Number:

System Contact Info:

Name:

Phone Number:

Monitoring Period with Lead Exceedance:

Date Notice Distributed:

Distribution Method:

Instructions for Completing Public Education on Lead in Drinking Water

A public water system must conduct a Public Education program on lead in drinking water if, during a monitoring period, more than 10 percent of the tap water samples collected in accordance with 15A NCAC 18C .1507 (141.86) exceed the action level of 0.015 mg/L [or 15 parts per billion (ppb)]. Therefore, if your system's 90th percentile lead level is greater than 0.015 mg/L, you must deliver Public Education (PE) to all customers. Once the missing information on the standard template on the reverse side of this page is completed, the template can be used for distribution to your customers as it already contains the required PE language and content. If you choose to use a form of PE other than this standard template, you must submit it to the State for approval prior to delivery to your consumers. Multi-lingual notifications must be provided if 30% of the residents served are non-English speaking.

COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS - REQUIRED PUBLIC EDUCATION (PE) TASKS [141.85(b)]

For as long as the lead action level is exceeded, community water systems must complete the PE tasks specified below within **60 days** after the end of the monitoring period in which the exceedance occurred and repeat the tasks every 12 months. The mandatory PE information must be included on or in each water bill, each billing cycle.

Small Water Systems (≤ 3,300 customers)

- Deliver printed materials (pamphlets, brochures, posters) to all bill paying customers
- Deliver public education materials to the following facilities and organizations that are served by the system that are most likely to be visited regularly by pregnant women and children:
 1. Local public health agencies *
 2. Public and private schools or school boards
 3. Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and Head Start programs
 4. Public and private hospitals and medical clinics
 5. Pediatricians
 6. Family planning clinics
 7. Local welfare agencies
- Make a good faith effort to locate the following organizations within the service area and deliver materials that meet the content requirements, along with an informational notice that encourages distribution to all potentially affected customers or users. The good faith effort to contact at-risk customers may include requesting a specific contact list of the organizations from the local public health agencies, even if the agencies are not located within the water system service area:
 1. Licensed childcare centers
 2. Public and private preschools
 3. Obstetricians-Gynecologists and Midwives
- Provide information on or in each water bill** (no less than quarterly or State can approve a separate mailing) (see mandatory language in footnote)
- Submit a press release to newspaper, television, and radio stations twice every 12 months on a schedule agreed upon with the State (Note: The State may waive this requirement for small systems as long as the system distributes notices to every household served by the system.)
- Implement one (1) additional PE activity*** (see footnote)

Large Water Systems (> 3,300 customers)

- Deliver printed materials (pamphlets, brochures, posters) to all bill paying customers
- Deliver public education materials to the following organizations that are located within your service area, along with a cover letter encouraging distribution to all potentially affected customers or users:
 1. Local public health agencies *
 2. Public and private schools or school boards
 3. Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and Head Start programs
 4. Public and private hospitals and medical clinics
 5. Pediatricians
 6. Family planning clinics
 7. Local welfare agencies
- Make a good faith effort to locate the following organizations within the service area and deliver materials that meet the content requirements, along with an informational notice that encourages distribution to all potentially affected customers or users. The good faith effort to contact at-risk customers may include requesting a specific contact list of the organizations from the local Public Health Agencies, even if the agencies are not located within the water system service area:
 1. Licensed childcare centers
 2. Public and private pre-schools
 3. Obstetricians-Gynecologists and Midwives
- Provide information on or in each water bill ** (no less than quarterly or State can approve a separate mailing) (see mandatory language in footnote)
- Submit a press release to newspaper, television, and radio stations twice every 12 months on a schedule agreed upon with the State
- Implement three (3) additional PE activities*** (see footnote)
- Post material on the water system's Web site (for systems serving > 100,000 individuals)

*Systems are required to contact local public health agencies directly by phone or in person, even if the agencies are not located within the water system service area. See the following Web site for county health department contact information: <http://www.deh.enr.state.nc.us/ehs/images/ehssdir2000.pdf>.

** Mandatory language for water bill: "[Insert Name of Water System] found high levels of lead in drinking water in some homes. Lead can cause serious health problems. For more information please call [Insert Name of Water System] [or visit (Insert your Web site here.)]"

*** Additional PE activities (choose from the following): public service announcements, paid advertisements, public area informational displays, e-mails to customers, public meetings, household deliveries, targeted individual customer contact, direct material distribution to all multi-family homes and institutions, other methods approved by the State. The educational content and selection of these activities must be determined in consultation with the State.

NON-TRANSIENT NON-COMMUNITY (NTNC) WATER SYSTEMS - REQUIRED PE TASKS [141.85(b)]

NTNC water systems must complete the PE tasks specified below within **60 days** after the end of the monitoring period in which the exceedance occurred and repeat the tasks at least once during each calendar year in which the system exceeds the lead action level.

- Post informational posters on lead in drinking water in a public place or common area in each of the buildings served by the system.
- Distribute informational pamphlets and/or brochures on lead in drinking water to each person served by the NTNC water system.

PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM REPORTING REQUIREMENTS [141.90(f)]

Community and NTNC water systems must send the following written documentation to the State within **ten (10) days** after the end of each period in which the system is required to perform public education (i.e. 70 days after the end of the monitoring period in which the exceedance occurred)

- A demonstration that the system has delivered the PE materials that meet the content and delivery requirements in 141.85 (a) and (b) respectively.
- A list of all the newspapers, radio stations, television stations, and facilities and organizations to which the system delivered PE materials during the period in which the system was required to perform the PE tasks.

Use our web-based certification process "ECERT" to submit a copy of the completed notice under the PE module. Access to ECERT is available from our website or the following link: <https://pws.ncwater.org/ECERT/>. If you do not have internet access MAIL TO: Public Water Supply Section, ATTN: Lead and Copper Rule Manager, 1634 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1634