

# Lead Tap Water Monitoring Consumer Notice

PWS ID#: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

PWS Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for participating in the lead tap water monitoring program. In accordance with the "Idaho Rules for Public Drinking Water Systems" (IDAPA 58.01.08.350.06), all water systems must provide consumers who occupy homes that are part of the lead monitoring program with their individual lead sample result. The lead tap water monitoring result for the drinking water sample collected at the location listed below was:

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Sample Collection Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**ONLY the statement that is checked below is applicable to your sample location.**

Lead was NOT DETECTED at this sample location.

Lead was detected at \_\_\_\_\_ milligrams per liter (mg/L). This result is BELOW the lead action level of 0.015 mg/L.

Lead was detected at \_\_\_\_\_ milligrams per liter (mg/L). This result is ABOVE the lead action level of 0.015 mg/L.

The 90th percentile value for our public water supply was \_\_\_\_\_ milligrams per liter (mg/L).

## What Does This Mean?

Under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set the action level for lead in drinking water at **0.015 mg/L**. This means utilities must ensure that water from the customer's tap does not exceed this level in at least 90% of the homes sampled (90th percentile value). The action level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a public water system owner or operator must follow. If water from the tap does exceed this limit, then the utility must take certain steps to correct the problem. Because lead may pose serious health risks, EPA set a maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) of zero for lead. The MCLG is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

If detected, your lead level may be due to conditions unique to your home, such as the presence of lead solder or brass faucets, fittings, and valves that may contain lead. Our goal is to keep the corrosivity of our water as low as possible (corrosive water can cause lead to leach from plumbing materials that contain lead), and there are actions you can take to reduce exposure. We strongly urge you to take the steps below to reduce your exposure to lead in drinking water.

Should the current (or if in the future) lead 90th percentile for the water supply exceed the lead action level, we will be taking a number of steps to correct the problem. Such steps will or would include monitoring our source water, initiating controls to reduce the corrosivity of our water, and initiating lead service line replacement if needed.

## What are 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 damage the brain and kidneys and 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.

**What are the Sources of Lead?**

The primary sources of lead exposure for most children are deteriorating lead-based paint, lead-contaminated dust, and lead-contaminated residential soil. Exposure to lead is a significant health concern, especially for young children and infants whose growing bodies tend to absorb more lead than the average adult. Lead is rarely found in source water but enters tap water through corrosion of plumbing materials. Homes built before 1986 are more likely to have lead pipes, fixtures, and solder.

**What Can I Do to Reduce Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water?**

If you are concerned about the lead levels at your location, there are several things you can do:

- **Run your water to flush out lead.** If the tap hasn't been used for several hours, run water for 15-30 seconds to flush lead from interior plumbing or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking.
- **Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to cook, drink, or make baby formula.
- **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead.
- **Look for alternative sources or treatment of water.** Consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Read the package to ensure the filter is approved to reduce lead. Maintain and replace a filter device according to the manufacturer's instructions to protect water quality.
- **Test your water for lead.** Call us at the number listed below to find out how to get your water tested for lead. A list of Idaho-certified laboratories is available at <http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Health/Labs/CertificationDrinkingWaterLabs/tabid/1833/Default.aspx>.
- **Get your child's blood tested.** Contact your local health department or health care 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.** Brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," may contribute lead to drinking water. Prior to January 2014, the law allowed fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 8% lead to be labeled as "lead free." "Lead free" is now defined as a weighted average of less than or equal to 0.25%. To learn more about lead-containing fixtures, visit [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org).

**Who Can I Contact for More Information?**

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead), call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your healthcare provider.

If you need more information concerning this result, please call the water system contact listed below:

Water System: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.  
Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.