



SUPPLY LINES WITH THE SOURCE



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DWGB's Multi-Pronged Approach to Lead

The crisis in Flint, Michigan makes us all keenly aware that more needs to be done to minimize exposure to lead in drinking water. DWGB and EPA are pursuing a multi-pronged approach to address the situation.

The reason this is so important is that technical compliance with the current Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) may not be enough to sufficiently protect public health, since there is no safe level of lead in drinking water, especially for children. At even very low levels of exposure, fetuses, infants and children can experience permanent neurological impairment that translates to lower IQ scores and lifelong behavioral impacts.

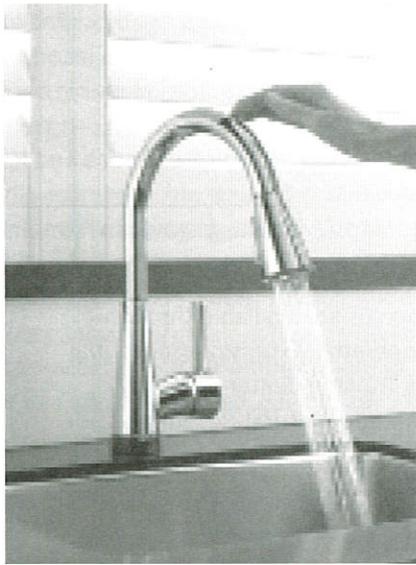
There are many factors that can cause the release of lead in aging water distribution systems. Chief among them are lead service lines, changes in water chemistry that may result from a change in source or treatment, and failure to maintain adequate corrosion control to limit leaching from the system's lead components and on-premise plumbing.

EPA and DWGB are pursuing several avenues to address the lead issue. First, EPA and the States are formulating proposed changes to the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR). DWGB anticipates that the revised LCR will focus on removal of lead in the distribution system, including the portion of a lead service line on customer property. This "get the lead out" strategy is a substantial departure from the current approach, which relies mainly on corrosion control, monitoring and limiting the amount of lead in new fixtures.

Second, DWGB is asking water systems to voluntarily take steps without waiting for the LCR to be revised. These steps include following a revised sampling protocol, addressing any elevated levels of lead, performing public notice and education more promptly than required,

and re-evaluating whether sampling is being conducted where the presence of lead is likely. To get an early start on the new strategy to "get the lead out" of water systems, we are also asking water systems to work on identifying all remaining lead components in their systems.

Third, for schools and child care centers, whether served by public water systems or private wells, DWGB is working with the Department of Education, the Department of Health and Human Services and municipal water suppliers to encourage water sampling and evaluation of lead components.



In New Hampshire, public water systems are generally in compliance with the current LCR, but they are only half of the picture. All but 23 of our 1,140 Public Water Systems (PWS) subject to the LCR are currently (as we go to press) in compliance, and the rest are working toward demonstrating adequate lead reduction. But there are nearly as many people relying on private wells for their drinking water as there are those who rely on community systems. DWGB strongly encourages testing of private wells, particularly for older homes. Sam-

pling water periodically to test for lead and other, more common contaminants such as arsenic and radon, is the only way to know what is in the water. The test results can be used to determine whether removing lead components or treating water, or both, would be appropriate. A list of accredited laboratories and other guidance can be found by searching the web for "NHDES Private Well Testing."

Regardless of one's source of drinking water, everyone is encouraged to run their water first thing in the morning for a few minutes or until it gets cold, to flush water that has sat stagnant overnight and may contain lead or copper leached from home plumbing fixtures, pipe or solder. Drinking and cooking with water only from the cold water

(Lead, continued on pg 2)