

Aqua Ohio – Mansfield #8 Public Water System
Consumer Notice of Tap Water Result
PWSID: OH7003212

Aqua Ohio's Mansfield #8 public water system is responsible for providing drinking water that meets state and federal standards. Based on four samples analyzed in the Mansfield #8 system, it has been determined that the 90th percentile value of 53.5 ug/L exceeded the federal action level of 15 ug/L for lead.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) recently changed the notification requirements for lead action level exceedances. This notice is in compliance with the new requirements.

What Is Being Done?

Aqua Ohio is responding to this information by:

1. Retesting the houses that had high lead-test results to confirm the reliability of the tests;
2. Mailing each customer information about lead in the water and how they can minimize lead exposure;
3. Conducting water quality tests to determine the corrosivity of the water; and
4. Evaluating the benefit of developing and implementing a corrosion-treatment program.

What Does This Mean?

Under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established the action level for lead in drinking water at 15 ug/L. This means public water systems must ensure that water from taps used for human consumption does not exceed this level in at least 90 percent of the sites sampled (90th percentile value).

The action level is the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a public water system must follow. Because lead may pose serious health risks, the EPA established 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.

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 cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and it can 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 Can I Do To Reduce Exposure to Lead if Found in My Drinking Water?

Run your water to flush out lead. If water has not been used for several hours, run water for 30 seconds to two minutes before using it for drinking or cooking. This helps flush any lead in the water that may have been leached from the plumbing.

Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula. Do not cook with, drink water, or make baby formula from the hot water tap. Lead dissolves more easily in hot water. Do not boil water to remove lead. Boiling water will not reduce lead. You may wish to test your water for lead at additional locations in your home. Identify if your plumbing fixtures contain lead and consider replacing them when appropriate.

What Are The Sources of Lead?

Lead is a common, natural, toxic, and often useful metal that was used for years in products found around the home. It can be found throughout the environment in lead-based paint, air, soil, household dust, and certain types of pottery, porcelain, and pewter. Although most lead exposure, especially in children, occurs when paint chips are ingested, dust inhaled, or absorbed from contaminated soil, the U.S. EPA estimates that 10 to 20 percent of human exposure of lead may come from lead in drinking water.

Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like rivers and lakes. Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the plumbing. Buildings built prior to 1986 are more likely to have lead pipes, fixtures, and solder. New buildings can also be at risk, since even legally 'lead-free' plumbing may contain up to 8 percent lead. The most common problem is with brass or chrome-plated brass fixtures which can leach significant amounts of lead into water, especially hot water.

For more information, please contact Aqua at 877.987.2782; visit the US EPA's website at www.epa.gov/lead; call the National Lead Information Center at 800.424.LEAD; call the Richland County Health Department at 419.774.4700; or contact your healthcare provider.