

# **PUBLIC EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**

## **NON-TRANSIENT NON- COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS**

Non-transient, Non-Community water systems that exceed the lead action level based on tap water samples are required to deliver a public education program containing the public education materials below.

### **PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM DELIVERY**

Within 60 days after exceeding the lead action level, non-transient non-community water system must deliver the public education materials below as follows:

1. Post informational posters on lead in drinking water in a public place or common area in each of the buildings served by the system; and
2. Distribute informational pamphlets and/or brochures on lead in drinking water to each person served by the non-transient non-community water system. Electronic transmission may be used in lieu of or combined with printed materials as long as it achieves at least the same coverage.

A non-transient non-community water system must repeat the tasks above at least once during each calendar year in which the system exceeds the lead action level.

A water system may discontinue delivery of public education materials if the system has met the lead action level during the most recent six-month monitoring period. A water system must recommence public education program delivery if it subsequently exceeds the lead action level during any monitoring period.

# **PUBLIC EDUCATION MATERIALS**

## **NON-TRANSIENT NON-COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS**

NTNC water systems are required to include the following text in all of the printed materials distributed through its lead public education program. Any additional information presented by a water system must be consistent with this information and be in plain English that can be understood by laypersons.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and [insert name of water supplier] are concerned about lead in your drinking water. Some drinking water samples taken from this facility have lead levels above the EPA action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb), or 0.015 milligrams of lead per liter of water (mg/L). Under Federal And State law we are required to have a program in place to minimize lead in your drinking water by [insert date when corrosion control will be completed for your system]. This program includes corrosion control treatment, source water treatment if necessary, and public education. If you have any questions about how we are carrying out the requirements of the lead regulation please give us a call at [insert water system's phone number].

### **Health Effects of Lead**

Lead is a common metal found throughout the environment in lead-based paint, air, soil, household dust, food, certain types of pottery porcelain and pewter, and drinking water. Lead can pose a significant risk to your health if too much of it enters your body. Lead builds up in the body over many years and can cause damage to the brain, red blood cells and kidneys. The greatest risk is to young children and pregnant women. Amounts of lead that won't hurt adults can slow down normal mental and physical development of growing bodies. In addition, a child at play often comes into contact with sources of lead contamination -- like dirt and dust -- that rarely affect an adult. It is important to wash children's hands and toys often, and to try to make sure they only put food in their mouths.

### **Lead in Drinking Water**

Lead in drinking water, although rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, can significantly increase a person's total lead exposure, particularly the exposure of infants who drink baby formulas and concentrated juices that are mixed with water. The EPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20 percent or more of a person's total exposure to lead.

Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like rivers, lakes and wells. Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or wearing away of materials containing lead in the water system plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass and chrome plated brass faucets, and in some cases, pipes made of lead that connect your house to the water main (service lines). In 1985, Oregon banned the use of lead solder containing greater than 0.2% lead, and restricted the lead content of faucets, pipes and other plumbing materials to 8.0%.

When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into your drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning, or later in the afternoon after returning from work or school, can contain fairly high levels of lead.

### **THE STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO REDUCE EXPOSURE TO LEAD IN DRINKING WATER:**

1. Let the water run from the tap before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in a faucet has gone unused for more than six hours. The longer water resides in plumbing the more lead it may contain. Flushing the tap means running the cold-water faucet for about 15-30 seconds. Although toilet flushing or showering flushes water through a portion of the plumbing system, you still need to flush the water in each faucet before using it for drinking or cooking. Flushing tap water is a simple and inexpensive measure you can take to protect your health. It usually uses less than one gallon of water.
2. Do not cook with, or drink water from the hot water tap. Hot water can dissolve more lead more quickly than cold water. If you need hot water, draw water from the cold tap and heat it.
3. The steps described above will reduce the lead concentrations in your drinking water. However, if you are still concerned you may wish to use bottle water for drinking and cooking.
4. You can consult a variety of sources for additional information. Your family doctor or pediatrician can perform a blood test for lead and provide you with information about the health effects of lead. State and local government agencies that can be contacted include:

(Insert the name or title of facility official, if appropriate) at (insert phone number) can provide you with information about your facility's water supply, and

The Department of Human Services-Drinking Water Program at (971)673-0405 or the (insert the name of the county health department) at (insert phone number) can provide you with information about the health effects of lead.