



Information about Lead

Louisville’s drinking water meets all Environmental Protection Agency standards for lead. Louisville’s drinking water does not contain lead when it leaves the treatment plants.

Lead is a metal that is found in natural deposits. The greatest exposure to lead is from swallowing paint chips containing lead or breathing in lead paint dust.

Lead is rarely found in source water, but can enter tap water through corrosion of plumbing materials. Until 1938, it was common for water utilities to install lead service lines and prior to 1986 it was common for contractors to use lead solder and fixtures containing lead. Louisville Water treats the water to minimize lead from leaching from plumbing fixtures and solder. Today, even “lead-free” plumbing may contain up to 8% lead.

Louisville Water has an aggressive program to replace lead service lines in our system. If you have lead pipes or lead soldered joints, “flushing” your pipes can minimize any particles that may leach from your plumbing. Flushing procedures:

- A. Before cooking or drinking, run the cold faucet and “flush” the line for at least two minutes or until you feel a significantly cooler water temperature. Do not drink, cook or make baby formula with water from the hot water tap. (hot water can pick up more lead particles than cold water.)
- B. If water sits in the indoor pipes for more than a few hours, let the cold water run for at least two minutes or until you feel a significantly cooler water temperature. Regular household water usage from doing laundry, running the dishwasher and toilet flushing will also keep the water continuously moving through the pipes and serve to flush the lines.
- C. In extreme cases, lead can leach into your water if ground wiring from your electrical system is attached to your pipes. If you are concerned, have an electrician check your wiring.

This information is also at LouisvilleWater.com

The Environmental Protection Agency’s Consumer website also includes information about lead at <http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/lead/index.cfm>.