

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

RICHWOOD WATER DEPT, WV3303401

RICHWOOD WATER DEPT found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

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 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

Sources of Lead:

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. The main sources of lead exposure are lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust or soil, and some plumbing materials. In addition, lead can be found in certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics. Other sources include exposure in the work place and exposure from certain hobbies (lead can be carried on clothing or shoes). Brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," may contribute lead to drinking water.

Steps to reduce their exposure to lead in drinking water:

- **Run your water to flush out lead.** Flush for 15-30 seconds, if your water has been sitting for several hours
- **Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Lead dissolves more easily into hot water.
- **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead.
- **Look for alternative sources or treatment of water.**
- **Test your water for lead.** Call us to find out how to get your water tested for lead.
- **Get your child's blood tested.** Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead, if you are concerned about exposure.
- **Identify and replace plumbing fixtures containing lead.** Brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," may contribute lead to drinking water. Visit the NSF Web site at www.nsf.org to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures.

What happened? What is being done?

(Describe corrective action)

Routine samples tested high. We will increase lead and copper sampling. We will collect water quality parameter samples.

For more information, please contact Michael Spencer at 304-846-2596. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/lead> or contact your health care provider.

This notice is being sent to you by: **RICHWOOD WATER DEPT**

State Water System ID #: **WV3303401**

Date Distributed: 1-17-2024