



Protecting Your Drinking Water

Information About Lead Monitoring and Household Plumbing



Providing safe, reliable drinking water from the North Umpqua River is our highest priority.

As required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), we routinely monitor for lead and copper under the Lead and Copper Rule. This helps identify potential sources of lead or copper in household plumbing so we can continue to protect public health.



UBWA's drinking water comes from the North Umpqua River, a high-quality surface water source. Neither our source water nor our distribution system contains lead.

In some homes, however, older plumbing materials—including service lines, solder, faucets, and fixtures—may contribute lead or copper after the water enters the home. Homes built before 1988 are more likely to contain these materials.



2023 LEAD & COPPER MONITORING

During routine Lead and Copper Rule monitoring conducted in 2023, UBWA collected water samples from selected homes throughout our service area.

- ✓ Four homes had lead sample results above the EPA Action Level.
- ✓ The elevated lead levels were associated with older household plumbing fixtures within those homes—not with UBWA's water source or distribution system.
- ✓ Each affected customer was notified of their individual results and provided information about reducing potential lead exposure.

UBWA will continue routine monitoring and public education as required by the EPA.



HEALTH INFORMATION

Lead can be harmful if too much enters the body. Young children, infants, and pregnant women are at the greatest risk because lead can affect brain development and other important body functions. Adults with certain medical conditions may also be more sensitive to lead exposure.

For more information, visit:
www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water



WHERE CAN LEAD COME FROM?

Lead is not typically found in source water. When lead is detected, it is most often associated with older plumbing materials located within a home or building.

Potential sources include:

- Older lead service lines
- Lead solder used in plumbing
- Brass faucets, valves, and fixtures
- Plumbing materials installed before 1988

Lead exposure may also come from sources outside of drinking water, including lead-based paint, household dust, contaminated soil, certain pottery, and some occupational or hobby activities.

SIMPLE STEPS TO REDUCE EXPOSURE



Run cold water for 15–30 seconds before using it for drinking or cooking if water has been sitting in the plumbing.



Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and preparing infant formula.



Do not boil water to remove lead.



Consider an NSF-certified filter if your home contains older plumbing materials.



Replace older plumbing fixtures when practical.



Contact UBWA if you would like information about lead testing.



If your home is not currently included in UBWA's Lead and Copper Monitoring Program, we can provide information for a state-certified laboratory that can assist with testing your drinking water.

UMPQUA BASIN WATER ASSOCIATION

(541) 672-5559

4972 Garden Valley Rd. Roseburg, OR 97471



Thank you for helping us keep our water safe and our community healthy.



4972 Garden Valley Rd.
Roseburg, OR 97471



ubwa.org