EWWSB LEAD TESTING INFO

Because of the recent lead scares around the United States, we want to share information on the Lead Testing Program for Eufaula Water Works water system. Every three years, thirty (30) residences throughout our system are tested for lead. Older homes, known to have lead joints in their plumbing, are selected for our testing pool. Samples are pulled first thing in the morning from a kitchen or bathroom faucet. If a customer's lead result is over the action level, we recommend to this resident that he/she flush faucets 15-30 seconds before consumption. This data is also provided to Alabama Department of Environmental Management for monitoring.

Our last Lead testing took place in July 2014, with the next round due in 2017. Our system's maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) of 0.0 falls below the maximum parts per billion allowed for lead, which is 15 ppb. For more information about lead and other testing, please refer to your current CCR mailing. An example of our Lead Water Sample Result mailing can be reviewed below, which features the health effects of lead and the steps you can take to reduce your exposure in drinking water.

IMPORTANT: Lead Water Sample Result

Public Water System Name: _____
PWSID Number: _____

SAMPLE RESULT

On _____, a lead water sample was collected from _____. The Safe Drinking Water Act requires the _____ to provide each customer who collected a lead sample that they collected. The lead result from the sample collected at the above address is: ____ parts per billion. The copper result is: _____ parts per billion.

MAXIMUM CONTAINMENT LEVEL GOAL (MCLG) & ACTION LEVEL

The MCLG for lead is zero and the action level is 15 parts per billion. The MCLG is the level of a containment in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety. The action level is the concentration of a containment which, if exceeded, triggers treatment of other requirements which a water system must follow. The action level for copper is 1,300 parts per billion.

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 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.

STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO REDUCE EXPOSURE TO LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

Run your water to flush out lead: If water hasn't been used for several hours, run water for 15 to 30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking.

Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula: Lead dissolves more easily into hot water.

Do not boil water remove lead: Boiling water will not reduce lead.

Remove loose solder and debris from plumbing materials: Remove the faucet strainers from all tap and run the water from 3 to 5 minutes. Thereafter, periodically remove the strainers and flush any debris that has accumulated over time.

Identify and replace lead solder: Lead solder appears dull gray, and when scratched with a key becomes shinny. A licensed plumber should be able to help with lead solder identification and replacement (if applicable).

Have an electrician check your grounding: Check with a licensed electrician if grounding wires from the electrical system can be done so elsewhere (if applicable).

Look for alternative sources or treatment of water: You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information, please contact the _____ at _____. For additional information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building, and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at http://www.epa.gov/lead or contact your health care provider.