The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the City of Lowell (PWS #4100492) are concerned about lead in your drinking water. Although most homes have very low levels of lead in their drinking water, some homes in the community 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 law we are required to have a program in place to minimize lead in your drinking water by **March 31, 2027.**

This program includes:
1. Corrosion control treatment (treating the water to make it less likely that lead will dissolve into the water);
2. Source water treatment (removing any lead that is in the water at the time it leaves our treatment facility); and
3. A public education program.

Corrosion control treatment will likely be required if further monitoring indicates lead results are over the action level. If you have any questions about how we are carrying out the requirements of the lead regulation please give us a call at **541-937-2157**.

This brochure also explains the simple steps you can take to protect yourself by reducing your exposure to lead in drinking water.

Important Information about Lead in Your Drinking Water The City of Lowell 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. Drinking water is one possible source of lead exposure. 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). Lead is found in some toys, some playground equipment, and some children's metal jewelry.

Brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," may contribute lead to drinking water. The law currently allows end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 8 percent lead to be labeled as "lead-free."

The City of Lowell's Drinking Water Treatment Plant draws water from Dexter Reservoir to make drinking water. The source of water from Dexter Reservoir does not contain lead and the water mains in the street that provide drinking water do not contain lead. When water is in contact with pipes and plumbing containing lead for several hours, the lead may enter drinking water. Homes built before 1988 are more likely to have lead pipes or lead solder.

EPA estimates that 10 to 20 percent of a person's potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water. Infants who consume mostly formula mixed with lead-containing water can receive 40 to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water.

Don't forget about other sources of lead such as lead paint, lead dust, and lead in soil. Wash your children's hands and toys often as they can come into contact with dirt and dust containing lead.

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

1. Run **your water to flush out lead.** Run water for 15-30 seconds to flush lead from interior plumbing or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking, if it hasn't been used for several hours.

2. Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula. Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.

3. Do not boil water to remove lead. Boiling water will not reduce lead.

4. Look for alternative sources or treatment of water. You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or **www.nsf.org** for information on performance

standards for water filters. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to protect water quality.

5. Test your water for lead. Call us at 541-937-2157 to find out how to get your water tested for lead The City of Lowell collects ten (10) samples every three (3) years from homes identified under the "Lead and Copper Rule" requirements. These samples are collected by the homeowner, and the City of Lowell delivers these samples to our lab for analysis. The City of Lowell uses Analytical Laboratory Group located at 361 West 5th Ave in Eugene. Analytical Laboratory Group performs water quality testing for homeowners as well for a fee. They can be reached at 541-485-8404.

6. 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.

7. Identify and replace plumbing fixtures containing lead. New brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," may contribute lead to drinking water. The law currently allows end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 8% lead to be labeled as "lead-free."

WHAT HAPPENED?

The City of Lowell is required to perform lead and copper testing of ten (10) homes every three (3) years. During our most recent lead and copper sampling required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Oregon Health Authority (OHA), two (2) of the ten (10) homes sampled had Lead results above the Lead Action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb).

WHAT IS BEING DONE?

The City of Lowell recently inventoried all service lines throughout the city. This includes not only the service line after the water meter to the house, but the service line from the water main in the street to the meter. The inventory found that **0** service lines out of the total **507** that were inspected contained lead. That information is available at the following web link. Select the "Service Lines" tab.

https://yourwater.oregon.gov/leadcopper.php?pwsno=00492

To reduce the level leads currently in homes, the City of Lowell maintains water parameters and targets for pH to reduce the risk of erosion in the water pipes.

The City of Lowell is required to increase monitoring of lead and copper and work with the Oregon Health Authority to determine if corrosion control measures should be installed. The corrosion control treatment plan, if required at some point in the future, would make it less likely for lead from household plumbing to dissolve into drinking water.

Some homes, even those built after 1988 when all water materials were required to be low lead or lead free, may still have fittings or parts containing lead. To find out if you have a lead service line contact the City of Lowell at 541-937-2157.

History of Lead levels in City of Lowell tap water. Historically, the City of Lowell's sampling has shown low levels of lead in the tap water. Recently, the levels have slowly climbed. This is caused by aging pipes and erosion of the pipes and fittings in some homes and some of the services lines supplying water to the homes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call us at 541-937-2157 or visit our Web site at https://www.ci.lowell.or.us/publicworks/page/water

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/lead, or contact your health care provider.

Lead in Drinking Water

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY