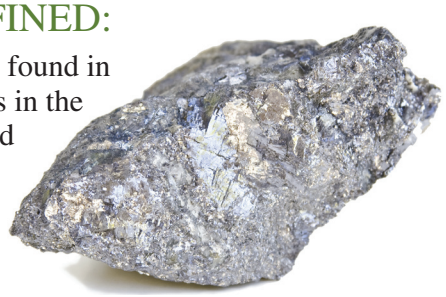
The Clackamas River, your source of drinking water, infrequently contains measurable lead levels and to the best of our knowledge lead has not been used in the manufacturing process of the pipes that deliver drinking water to your home! The elevated lead levels referred to in this brochure are based on samples collected from household plumbing systems and do not represent lead levels in the entire water system.

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 the 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.

LEAD DEFINED:

Lead is a metal found in natural deposits in the earth's crust and seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like rivers and lakes.



HELPFUL TIPS FOR REDUCING LEAD EXPOSURE:

1. Run the cold water tap for 15 – 30 seconds before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in the faucet has not been used for six hours or more. The longer water resides in your home's plumbing, the more lead it may contain.

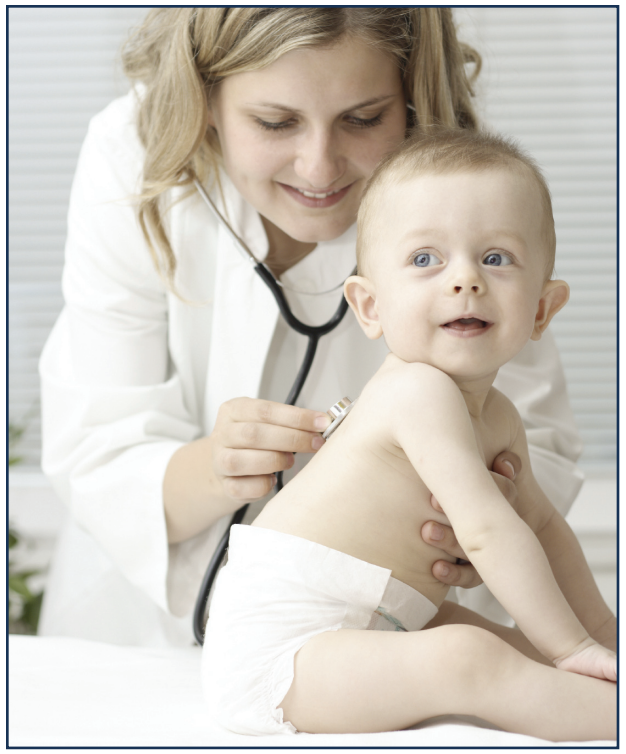
To conserve water fill a couple of bottles with the drinking water after flushing the tap, and whenever possible use the first flush water to wash dishes or water the plants.

If you live in an apartment, letting the water flow before using it may not be as effective to lessen your risk from lead in the water. These plumbing systems have more, and sometimes larger, pipes. Ask your landlord for help in locating the source of the lead and for advice on reducing the lead level.

2. Use only cold water for preparing baby formula, cooking and drinking. Using water from the hot water tap can dissolve more lead more quickly than cold water. If you need hot water, draw water from the cold tap and heat it for cooking.

3. Periodically remove loose debris from the faucet strainers at all of the taps used for drinking water and run the water from 3 - 5 minutes.

4. Identify and replace lead solder with a solder approved for use in drinking water. Lead solder looks dull gray, and when scratched with a key looks shiny.



5. Have a licensed electrician check the wiring to see if grounding wires from your homes electrical system are attached to your pipes. Do not attempt to change the wiring yourself!

6. In-line water filtration systems fitted with a carbon-type filter may greatly improve the removal of lead.

IMPORTANT FACT:

Boiling does not reduce lead levels in your water. As the water evaporates the lead levels can become higher than what was present in the water right from the tap.

HAVE YOUR CHILD TESTED:

Contact your family physician or care provider to have your child's blood tested for lead.

WHY SOME HOMES HAVE LEAD IN THE DRINKING WATER

Lead contamination in drinking water is mostly caused by pipe corrosion, deterioration of lead-based solder and the decomposition of brass or chrome-plated faucets **inside your home plumbing system.**

Elevated lead levels are more likely to be found in the plumbing materials found in older homes constructed between 1970 and 1985 when lead added to solder was common. In 1986, Congress reduced the lead content in solder to under 0.2%. As much as 8.0% lead can be present in kitchen and bathroom faucets.

The greatest risks of lead contamination for you and your family are found in lead-based paint used most commonly in older homes and lead that is present in the air, soil, household dust, food, porcelain, pewter and certain types of pottery.

LEAD LEVEL REDUCTION PLAN:

To reduce the lead levels the three water systems are working with South Fork Water Board to:

1. Build alkalinity levels in the water to reduce the amount of corrosion in your home plumbing.

2. Maintain a consistent pH of the water entering the distribution system to prevent the daily variations in pH of the water that may contribute to the increased solubility of lead in your home plumbing.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Clackamas River Water Customers call 503-722-9241 or visit our website www.crwater. com.

Oregon City Customers call 503-657-8241 or visit our website www.orcity.org.

West Linn Customers call 503-656-6081 or visit our website www.westlinnoregon.gov.

Click www.epa.gov/lead or contact your health care provider for more tips on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and to learn more about the health effects of lead.

FURTHER TESTING:

To have your water tested please contact one of the local laboratories approved by the Oregon drinking water program listed below. For a complete list of Oregon approved laboratories visit www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/orelap/docs/acclab.pdf.

Alexin Analytical Laboratories 503-639-9311
www.alexinlabs.com

Pyxis Laboratories 503-254-1794
no website available

Test America 503-906-9200
www.testamericainc.com

Your Helpful Information Guide to Lead in Household Plumbing and Your Drinking Water

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER:

Clackamas River Water and the cities of Oregon City and West Linn 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.

Clackamas River Water

City of West Linn