

Is Lead or Copper In Your Water?

Lead is a common metal found throughout the environment in air, soil, food, household dust, lead based paint, plumbing and drinking water.

Copper, another common metal, is used in water service line materials.

In 1986, Congress banned the use of lead solder containing greater than 0.2% lead, and restricted the lead content of faucets, pipes, and other plumbing materials to 8.0%.

Lead & Copper seldom occur naturally in water supplies. Instead they usually enter the distribution system through lead-containing materials or copper alloys and household plumbing. Lead in drinking water, is rarely the sole cause for lead poisoning.

How does Lead get into the drinking water?

Lead usually enters the drinking water primarily as a result of corrosion, or wearing away of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and household plumbing. These materials include:

- Lead based solder used to join copper pipe
- Brass and chrome-plated brass faucets
- In some cases, household plumbing made of lead

Reduce Exposure to Lead

- Flush Your Tap
 - When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into your drinking water.
- Do not drink or cook with water from the hot water tap
 - Hot water tends to dissolve lead faster than cold water
- Remove loose lead solder and debris
 - This is mostly for home plumbing that has recently been installed. Take out faucet strainer and flush the tap.
- Check your pipes

- See what type of plumbing you have in your house
- Have an electrician check your wiring
 - If grounding wires from the electrical system are attached to your pipes, corrosion of the pipes may be greater