

## Important Information About Lead in Your Drinking Water

Clackamas River Water found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes and buildings. Lead can cause serious 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.

### A Message From Clackamas River Water

Clackamas River Water is dedicated to providing the safest drinking water possible to all customers. Lead solder was sometimes used to join copper pipes in the area prior to 1985. Naturally occurring water properties can cause this lead to enter drinking water from your home plumbing.

While Clackamas River Water cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components, we are committed to providing high quality drinking water.

Clackamas River Water, working with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), has been developing a strategy that will control lead corrosion in household plumbing, thereby reducing lead levels in those homes affected.

## Testing Your Water For Lead

To have your water tested for lead please contact one of the local laboratories approved by the Oregon Drinking Water Program listed below.

- **Alexin Analytical Laboratories**  
503-639-9311
- **Pyxis Laboratories**  
503-854-1794
- **Test America**  
503-906-9200

For a complete list of Oregon approved laboratories visit:  
<http://healthoregon.gov/dwp>



For more information, call us at  
503-722-9241  
or visit our website  
[www.crwater.com](http://www.crwater.com)

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead contact your health care provider or visit the EPA's website:  
<http://www.epa.gov/lead>

# Your Guide to Lead in Household Plumbing and Drinking Water



*Clackamas River Water*

## If Your Plumbing Contains Lead Components Clackamas River Water Encourages You to Follow These Easy Steps

1. Run the cold water tap for 15-30 seconds before using it for drinking or cooking.  
The longer water resides in your home's plumbing, the more lead it may contain.
2. Use only cold water for preparing baby formula, cooking and drinking. More lead dissolves in hot water than cold.  
Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap. If you need hot water, draw water from the cold tap and heat if for cooking.
3. Periodically remove loose debris from the faucet screens at all the taps used for drinking water.
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. Be sure to change your filter according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

Please Note:  
Boiling your water does not  
reduce lead levels.

## Sources of Lead

Lead is a common metal found throughout the environment. Common sources of lead exposure are from lead based paint, household dust, soil and plumbing materials. Lead is also found in other household objects such as toys, cosmetics and pottery .

### Sources of Lead in Drinking Water

Clackamas River Water has never detected measurable levels of lead in the Clackamas River and has no lead service connections. The main sources of lead contamination in drinking water within the North and South Service Areas are from components associated with your home plumbing system. These include lead solder used to join copper pipes and brass or chrome plated plumbing fixtures.

Elevated levels of lead are most likely to be found in homes built prior to 1985 when lead-based solder was still being used in home construction. If your home contains lead-based solder you are considered a "high risk" home for lead exposure through drinking water.

If your home was built before 1985 and you are unsure if your plumbing contains lead-based solder please call us at 503-722-9241 to have your **plumbing** tested for lead components.

### Health Effects of Lead

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water. 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.