

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

Lead can be a significant risk to your health, especially for pregnant women and children under six. KC Water regularly tests our drinking water for lead and KC water is not aware of any lead service lines left in our system. However, if your home has any pipes and fixtures containing lead, here is some important information and tips to reduce exposure.

OUR DRINKING WATER

Where does our drinking water come from?

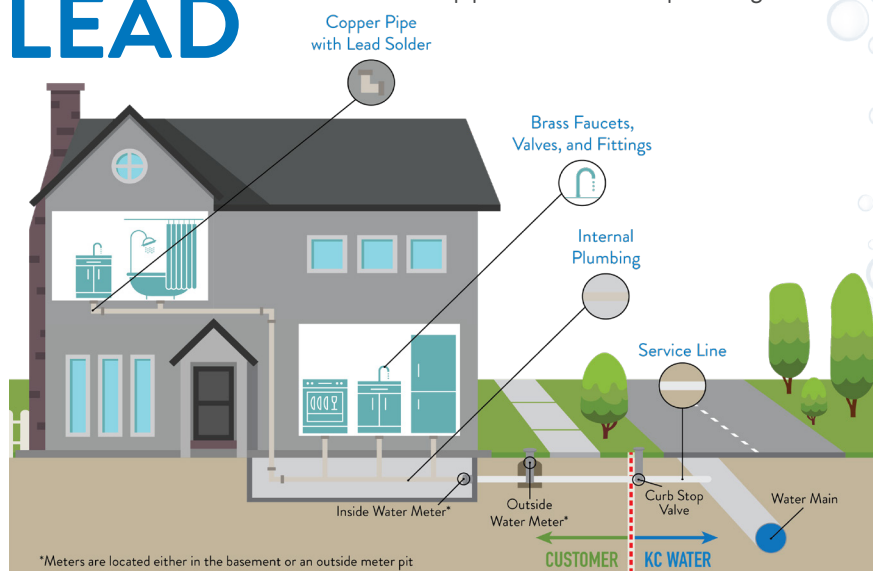
Kansas City's drinking water comes from the Missouri River as well as a small number of alluvial wells.

Who distributes drinking water?

KC Water distributes the water to homes, schools and businesses through 2,800 miles of pipe located throughout the city. KC Water is responsible for water treatment and adds lime to minimize the absorption of lead from household service pipes and household plumbing.

Sources of LEAD

Drinking water is essentially lead-free in the distribution system and prior to entering your individual water service pipes. However, there are sources where lead can enter your water.



Private Service Line

The service line is the pipe that connects the water main to your household plumbing. The material of water service pipes can vary, and some households still have lead service pipes. Lead service pipes were installed until the mid-1950s. KC Water is not aware of any lead service lines in Kansas City.

Internal Plumbing May Be Galvanized

Lead particles can attach to the inside surface of galvanized pipes. Over time, the particles can enter your drinking water, causing elevated lead levels. Galvanized pipes were installed in many homes prior to the 1960s.

Brass Faucets, Valves, and Fittings

Almost all faucets, valves, and fittings have brass components. Until 2014, brass faucets and fittings sold in the United States that are labeled "lead free" can contain up to eight (8) percent lead.

Copper Pipe with Lead Solder

Solder made or installed before 1986 contained high lead levels.

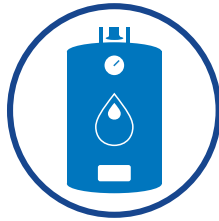


TIPS TO REDUCE LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER



Run the cold water tap for two minutes before using it for drinking and cooking.

Lead and other metals can dissolve in water when it sits in pipes for a few hours.



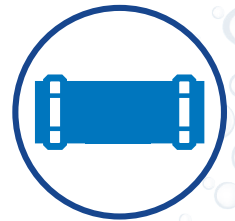
Drain your water heater annually

Over time metals, sediment, and bacteria can build up in your water heater.



Remove and clean faucet aerators

Lead particles and sediment can collect in the aerator screen located at the tip of your faucet. Aerators should be replaced once a year and are available at local hardware stores.



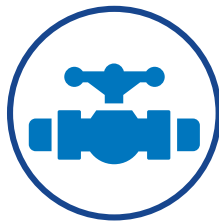
Install lead-free plumbing fixtures

Install fixtures and fittings that contain 0.25 percent lead or less.



Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula.

Always use cold tap water, including water used for making ice, beverages, and infant formula. Hot tap water can cause a greater amount of lead to release from plumbing and may contain metals and bacteria that build up in the water heater. Boiling water does not remove lead from water.



Replace private lead service pipes and household galvanized plumbing

Replace private lead service pipes with new pipes. When lead is released from lead service pipes and passes through galvanized pipes, lead can collect on the interior corroded walls of this plumbing and release lead in household water. Contact a licensed plumber about replacing household plumbing.



Flush cold water taps after installing new household pipes or fixtures.

New plumbing can release metals after installation. Flush cold water taps for five minutes at a high flow rate once a day for three days, especially before using water for drinking or cooking.



Use filtered tap water

If you are pregnant or have children under age six, use cold, filtered tap water for drinking and cooking until all lead sources are removed. This includes water used for making infant formula, beverages, and ice. Select a filter certified to meet NSF Standard 53 for lead. The filter package should specifically list the device as certified for removing the contaminant lead. Routinely replace filter cartridges according to the manufacturer's instructions.