

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and **Black Canyon City WID (BCCWID)** are concerned about lead in your drinking water.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

BCCWID has been regularly monitoring for lead and copper since 1993 per ADEQ regulations. With 850+ customers BCCWID has been required to take ten (10) samples as part of the annual or approved reduced monitoring requirements. Lead was detected at levels slightly above the EPA action level of 15ppb (parts per billion) in two (2) of the samples taken 7/15/2020. 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 ppb.

WHAT IS BEING DONE?

Under Federal law we are required to have a program in place to minimize lead in your drinking water.

This program includes:

1. Provide public educational information
2. Corrosion control treatment (treating the water to make it less likely that lead will dissolve into the water)
3. Source water treatment (monitor and remove any lead that is in the water at the time it leaves our treatment facility if above action level of 15 ppb)

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

We are working with ADEQ, increasing the number of sites to be sampled to better understand if there are elevated levels of lead in other parts of our system. During this period of increased monitoring, we will report the results to ADEQ and will provide additional information about any issues we discover and any actions deemed necessary by ADEQ.

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.

The source of water for the BCCWID are six wells that draw water from the Agua Fria Aquifer. Since 1993, monitoring has shown no lead issues to date. Most current source water testing was on 7/14/2020 and results were 0.52 ppb and <0.50 ppb, **BOTH FAR BELOW THE 15 ppb ACTION LEVELS.**

YOUR 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 0.25 percent wetted surface lead to be labeled as "lead-free."

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.

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 from the cold water tap for 15-30 seconds to flush lead from interior plumbing or until it becomes cold and 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. Also, do not boil water from the hot water tap, as hot water can dissolve lead more quickly than cold water. Rather, if you need hot water, draw water from the cold tap and heat it on the stove. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.

3. 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. Check your faucets, fittings, and valves to see if they may have lead.

4. Test your water for lead

Call us at **623-374-9408** to find out how to get your water tested for lead.

5. Get your child's blood tested

Contact the state or local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead, if you are concerned about exposure.

6. 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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call us at 623-374-9408 or visit our website at <https://www.bccwid.org>. Additional information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead can be found on the EPA's website at www.epa.gov/lead, or contact your healthcare provider.

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