

Caterpillar Trail Public Water District

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Here's what you should know about lead and drinking water.

CTPWD does not know of any lead service lines in our system

Lead is not typically found in the streams, reservoirs or wells that serve as water supplies or in the main water lines that carry water from treatment plants to homes. Yet, the chemical properties of water can cause lead and other metals to leach into drinking water. The main source of lead in drinking water is from lead service lines (the pipes that deliver water from water mains in the street into homes) and from typical household plumbing (lead solder and brass fixtures) that contains lead. Households that have, or suspect having, lead service lines or lead in their household plumbing are strongly encouraged to replace them. The use of lead in solder was prohibited after 1986, so buildings constructed after 1986 should not contain lead in the solder.

Water utilities, including CTPWD, treat drinking water to reduce the chance for metals to leach into the water. CTPWD conducts required testing for drinking water contaminants, including lead and copper, to ensure compliance with state and federal drinking water standards. CTPWD tests the water at our treatment plant, and also schedules customer tap sampling, to comply with the U.S. EPA'S lead and copper rule.

CTPWD is currently in full compliance with state and federal standards for lead and copper.

You can view a summary of our test results in our annual water quality report at cattrailwater.org.

You should know that there are parts of the service line that bring water to your home that are CTPWD property (the pipe that goes from our water main in the street to your shutoff, typically near the property line) and parts of the service line that are your property (from the shutoff to your home). If CTPWD encounters a lead service line during construction activities, we will replace the CTPWD portion of the service line and notify the customer of our actions. We will also let you know if we observe lead in your service line. If you have concerns regarding your portion of the service line, or your plumbing, we recommend that you have a licensed plumber check the pipes that are your property.

What you can do:

If you are concerned about the potential of lead in your water, below are ways you can minimize your exposure.

- 1) Run your tap to flush out lead. If your water hasn't been used for several hours, run your water for a few minutes or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before drinking or cooking.
- 2) Use cold water to cook or prepare baby formula. DO NOT boil water to reduce lead. Lead dissolves more easily into hot water and boiling will concentrate the lead. Boiling water will not reduce lead.
- 3) If you buy a water filter for lead removal, make sure it is NSF approved to reduce lead. Contact NSF International, www.NSF.org.
- 4) For more information on lead and it's health effects, visit the EPA at EPA.gov/lead