

LEAD CONSUMER NOTICE TEMPLATE

(for water systems NOT using the State EPD Lab services)

An electronic version of this template is available on the GA EPD website: <http://epd.georgia.gov/drinking-water-forms>

Water System ID#: _____
(fill in 7-digit water system ID#)

Water System Name: _____
(fill in water system name)

Dear {insert consumer's name},

{Insert name of your water system} appreciates your participation in the Lead tap monitoring program. A Lead level of {insert data/results from the laboratory analysis of the sample collected making sure the value is in ppb or ug/L} was reported for the sample collected on {insert sample collection date} at your location, {insert address of home or facility}.

What Does This Mean?

Under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act, the U.S. EPA set the action level for Lead in drinking water at 15 ug/l or ppb (parts per billion). This means that water systems must ensure that water from the customer's tap does not exceed this level in at least 90% of the homes/sites sampled (90th percentile value). The action level is *the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow*. If water from the tap does exceed this limit, then the water system must take certain steps to correct the problem. Because Lead may pose serious health risks, the EPA set a Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) of zero for Lead. The MCLG is *the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health*. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

What Are The 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.

What Are The Sources of Lead?

The primary sources of Lead exposure for most children are deteriorating Lead-based paint, Lead-contaminated dust, and Lead-contaminated residential soil. Lead is found in some toys, some playground equipment, some metal jewelry, and some traditional pottery. Exposure to Lead is a significant health concern, especially for young children and infants whose growing bodies tend to absorb more Lead than the average adult. If you are concerned about Lead exposure, parents should ask their health care providers about testing children for high levels of Lead in the blood.

What Can I do To Reduce Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water?

- **Run your water to flush out Lead.** If the water hasn't been used for several hours, run the water for 15-30 seconds to flush Lead from interior plumbing or run it until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking.
- **Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.**
- **Do NOT boil water to attempt to remove Lead.**
- **Look for alternative sources or treatment of water (such as bottled water or water filters.)**
- **Re-test your water for Lead periodically**
- **Identify and replace plumbing fixtures containing Lead**

For More Information

Call us at {insert your water system's phone number}. For more information on reducing Lead exposure around your home and the health effects of Lead, visit the EPA's website at www.epa.gov/Lead, call the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider.