

Facts about Lead in Loudoun Water's drinking water

- None of Loudoun Water's watermains or service lines were built using lead materials.
- Loudoun Water and its supplier, Fairfax Water, use corrosion control measures, such as the addition of zinc orthophosphate, as an added level of protection against any lead that may have leached into the water from solder on copper pipes.
- Lead has been banned for use in household plumbing and solder since the 1986 amendment to the Safe Drinking Water Act, so only homes built before then (or those with lead-containing fixtures) have a risk for lead.
- Loudoun Water tests for the presence of lead in the internal plumbing of a random sampling of 50 older homes once every three years.
- Lead is not naturally present in our tap water, but it can dissolve into tap water when pipes in a water system or household plumbing that contain lead corrode over time.
- EPA's current action level for lead in tap water is 15 parts per billion (ppb) for 90 percent of the samples taken. Not more than 10 percent of the samples can exceed this limit. The action level is not a public health threat trigger, but rather, a treatment technique trigger.
- Results from Loudoun Water's lead samples taken in the previous 5 years of testing were all within acceptable levels.
- If a home's tap water tests positive for lead, the homeowner is instructed to flush faucet lines for 60 to 90 seconds prior to use for cooking and drinking after prolonged periods of nonuse, such as overnight.
- Some household filters, such as a pitcher or faucet mounted model, can reduce lead in tap water. To know if your filter is certified for lead reduction, go to www.NSF.org.
- Currently, Loudoun Water shows non-detect levels of lead.