

Public School Drinking Water Lead Screening Program

Overview

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is coordinating with multiple state and local agencies, public water systems and public schools to **proactively** conduct a six-month statewide screening program for the presence of lead in school drinking water. Education and awareness about all childhood lead exposures is vital to ensuring a healthy environment for Arizona's children.

The purpose of the public school drinking water screening program is to identify whether school drinking water contains lead levels of concern for children's health, so that school districts can take appropriate actions to address any identified concerns.

Lead contamination may be present in school drinking water even when a school's water provider is in compliance with the federal lead drinking water standard of 15 parts of lead per billion parts of water (15 ppb), the level this screening program has selected to apply. This screening program is not related to public water system compliance.

Childhood Lead Exposure

In Arizona, the **most commonly known sources of lead** include lead-based paint in older homes, some household products including antique or imported toys, antique furniture, imported spices and candies, "home remedies" and lead-glazed pottery used for cooking. While drinking water is not considered to be a common source of lead in Arizona, eliminating lead in drinking water is an important step in reducing a child's overall exposure to lead in the environment, which can lead to serious, negative and long-term health effects.

Learn more about childhood lead exposure and health | [View >](#)

Public School Drinking Water Screening for Lead

Many schools' drinking water never has been tested for lead because, while public water systems regulated by ADEQ are required to comply with federal drinking water standards for lead, these requirements do not specify that testing be conducted at schools. Further, schools receiving water from public water systems also are not required to test for lead in their drinking water. Therefore, lead contamination may be present even when a school's water provider is in compliance with the federal lead drinking water standard.

For more information contact David Burchard at (602) 771-4298, or email LeadScreeningProgram@azdeq.gov
Visit ADEQ's website for detailed program information online at: <http://azdeq.gov/LeadScreeningProg>
