

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

Katherine Heights found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some home/buildings during the 2015 monitoring period. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and children 6 years and younger. Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

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 the 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 a 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 from certain hobbies (lead can be carried on clothing or shoes).

New 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 8 percent lead to be labeled "lead free". However, plumbing fixtures labeled National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certified may only have up to 2 percent lead. Consumers should be aware of this when choosing fixtures and take appropriate precautions.

The water Katherine Heights receives from EPCOR WATER does not contain any lead. Katherine heights storage tanks and underground piping does not contain any lead bearing material. The only lead bearing materials are some fixtures in the plumbing in or on the residences specifically the outdoor hose connections may have a higher concentration of lead than other parts of the plumbing in or on the residences." When water is in contact with pipes [or service lines] or plumbing that does contain lead for several hours, the lead may enter drinking water. Homes built before 1986 are more likely to have plumbing containing lead. New homes may also have lead; even "lead-free" plumbing may contain some lead.

EPA estimates that 10 to 20 percent of a person's potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water. Infants who consume mostly formula mixed with lead-containing water can receive 40 to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water.

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.** If water hasn't been used in several hours, run water for 15-30 seconds [or insert a different flushing time if your system has representative data indicating a different flushing time would better reduced lead exposure in your facility and if the Primacy Agency approves the wording] or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking, if it hasn't been used for several hours. This flushed lead-containing water from the pipes.

2. **Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
3. **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead.
4. **Look for alternative sources or treatment of water.** You may want to consider purchasing a water filter or bottled water. 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.
5. **Test your water for lead.** If you think you may have elevated lead levels in your home drinking water, have it tested. Call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) for more information. [Include information on your water system's testing program. For example, do you provide free testing? Are there labs in your area that are certified to do lead in water testing? Include applicable contact information for the system or lab.]
6. **Get your child's blood tested.** Contact your local health department, health care provider, or Arizona Department of Health Services to find out how you can get your child tested for lead, if you're concerned about exposure.

Arizona Department of Health Services
150 North 18th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Phone: (602) 542-1025
Website: <http://www.azdhs.gov/>

7. **Must discuss lead in plumbing components and the difference between low lead and lead free.** New 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 8% lead to be labeled as "lead free." Visit the National Sanitation Foundation Web site at www.nsf.org to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures.

What happened? What is being done?

Samples taken in 2015 exceeded the EPA action level for lead in one (1) out of five (5) samples this exceedance was discovered in January of 2017. The exact source of the lead is not known at this time.

Beginning in February 2017 then at the same addresses in July 2017, Katherine Heights will be seeking the assistance of 10 residences in the Katherine Heights community in taking lead and copper water samples. This testing is to verify the results of previous testing and also to determine if there are other sites with elevated levels of lead in the water system. The locations will be chosen to best reflect the entire community. If your residence is selected it is very important to collect the samples according to the instructions provided.

Katherine Heights will also be taking additional test to determine the water quality and if there is a need to start corrosion control water treatment for the water system.

This is the first time the water system at Katherine Heights has exceeded the action level for lead

For more information

Call us at 928-4044691, For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at www.epa.gov/lead, or contact your health care provider.

PWS System Name and State Water System ID: Katherine Heights AZ0408174

Date Notice is being distributed: