

Healthy household plumbing

Lead has not been detected in the Eugene Water & Electric Board's treated source water and there are no known lead service lines in the distribution system. Furthermore, EWEB, like thousands of other water utilities in the country, treats its water in order to raise the pH and reduce the corrosivity of water before it enters the distribution system.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children.

The main source of lead in water in the Eugene area is household plumbing. Lead solder was commonly used in homes built or plumbed with copper pipes before 1985. Lead also can be found in brass plumbing fixtures and components. Water that has been sitting in household plumbing that contains lead for several hours, such as in the morning or after returning from work or school, is most likely to contain lead.

EWEB is considered **optimized** by the Oregon Health Authority in its corrosion treatment and is in compliance with all lead regulations.

To help minimize exposure to lead, follow these easy steps:



Flush your water pipes.

In the morning, or after several hours of non-use, let your tap run for 30 seconds to 2 minutes or until it becomes noticeably colder before using for drinking or cooking.

Don't use hot tap water for cooking, drinking or mixing baby formula.

Always start with fresh, cold water.

Regularly clean your faucet aerator.

Particles containing lead from solder or old household plumbing can become trapped in your faucet aerator. Regular cleaning every few months will remove these particles and reduce your exposure to lead.

Consider buying low-lead fixtures.

As of January 2014, pipes, fittings and fixtures used for consuming drinking water are required to contain less than 0.25 percent lead. When buying new fixtures, consumers should seek out those with the lowest lead content.

Have your tap water tested by a state certified lab.

If you are concerned about lead in your household plumbing, call EWEB Water Quality at **541-341-8500, Option 2**, or email us at **waterquality@eweb.org** for information on how to get your water tested.



EWEB follows **all EPA** regulatory sampling guidelines

EWEB is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in household plumbing components. Additional Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (**1-800-426-4791**) or at **<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>**