



# City of Deer Park

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## LEAD IN DRINKING WATER PUBLIC EDUCATION

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

The City of Deer Park in the latest sampling period this past summer found elevated levels of lead above the action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb) or 0.015 milligrams per liter (mg/L) in drinking water in some of the homes/buildings tested in our water system. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

The City of Deer Park in compliance with provisions of State Law identified a limited number of high risk buildings in original surveys. In 2018, twenty-one single family homes were tested, and four samples were found above the lead action level noted above. In follow up to those tests, each of the high readings sites were retested as well as samples site in close proximity, and those analysis are currently underway and will be reported to the State and test sites upon their completed evaluations. Because of the EPA and State Department of Health requirements, we are required to notify all customers of these initial test results, in addition to those customers whose homes were tested.

**What is Lead?** Lead is a common metal found throughout the environment in lead-based paint, soil, air, household dust, food, certain types of pottery, porcelain and pewter, and in some water supplies.

**How does Lead gets into water?** Lead in drinking water most often comes from water distribution lines or household plumbing and fixtures rather than from the source of water supply. Testing from our eight ground water supply wells show either extremely minute or non-detectable levels of lead by our Laboratory testing agency. Plumbing sources of contamination can include lead pipes, lead solder, faucets and valves, and other components made of brass. These products are mostly found in older homes, as building materials and fixtures are no longer made using lead as a material of construction.

**What are 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. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development. 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.

### **How you can reduce exposure if you live in an older structure or are concerned:**

- When your water has been sitting for 6 hours or more, flush water through the pipe by running the cold-water tap until the water is noticeably colder before using for drinking or cooking. The longer water has been sitting in the pipes, the more dissolved metals it may contain.

- Use only cold water only for drinking, cooking and making baby formula. Hot water may contain higher levels of lead. Boiling water can increase the level of lead in the water.
- Frequently clean the filter screens and aerators in faucets to remove captured particles.
- If building or remodeling, only use “lead free” or low lead piping and materials. Avoid using copper or brass piping or brass fixtures for locations where water will be consumed or used in food preparation (such as kitchen or bathroom sinks).
- Parents can have their child’s blood tested for lead. Please contact your healthcare provider to perform this test. Further information on lead levels found in blood can be found at the Department of Health’s web page, <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/Lead/publicparent.htm>.

**What is the water utility doing?** As a result of the testing results completed this summer, we have completed two rounds of sampling from our drinking water sources, sampled water services where we monthly sample for bacteria in the water supply, and have retested the four sample sites with higher readings and above the lead action level.

From testing completed, if the water supply is found to have changed chemistry or determined to be higher in corrosive levels, we will be required to develop and implement a program to minimize the corrosiveness to help reduce the levels of lead at consumer taps. In order to do this, we may be required to install corrosion control treatment at all eight ground water sources. Further, public education materials like this may become a routine item for distribution in water bills, posting on the City web site and advertisements in the local paper.

Additionally, due to the higher readings at some of the sample sites, we are now required to test 40 residential service connections meeting the requirements of the law for age of units, within the next 6 month time frame. Test results from that effort will provide guidance to the City and State as to additional monitoring frequency and the number of sample sites.

For more information, call us at City Hall at 276-8802, or visit our web site at [www.cityofdeerparkwa.com](http://www.cityofdeerparkwa.com). For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA’s Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/lead> or contact your local health provider.

Information on lead in drinking water is available from EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or online: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

You may also access Washington State Department of Health’s Office of Drinking Water website at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/DW/default.htm>.

If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Some State approved drinking water laboratories in your area that you can call to have your water tested are:

Anatek Labs Inc.  
504 E. Sprague, Ste. D  
Spokane, WA 99202  
(509)838-3999

SVL Analytical, Inc.  
2195 Ironwood Court, Ste C  
Coeur d’Alene, ID 83814  
(208)665-5666