

TEST EXPLANATIONS FOR LEAD AND COPPER ANALYSIS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) enacted the Lead and Copper Rule in 1991 to provide human protection by reducing lead and copper levels in drinking water at the consumer's tap. The Rule set the following action levels:

- The USEPA **Lead** Action Level is **15 µg/L (ppb)**, or 15 parts per billion (ppb). The results listed on your report are reported as **µg/L (ppb)**.
- The USEPA **Copper** Action Level is 1.3 mg/L or 1.3 parts per million (ppm) is equal to **1,300 µg/L** or 1,300 parts per billion (ppb). The results listed on your report are reported as **µg/L (ppb)**.
- Samples have been subcontracted out to an approved laboratory for analysis.

What Are The 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. 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 high 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.

What Are The Sources of Lead?

The primary sources of lead exposure for most children are deteriorating lead-based paint, lead-contaminated dust, and lead-contaminated residential soil. Lead is found in some toys, some playground equipment, some children's metal jewelry, and some traditional pottery. Exposure to lead is a significant health concern, especially for young children and infants whose growing bodies tend to absorb more lead than the average adult. If you are concerned about lead exposure, parents should ask their health care providers about testing children for high levels of lead in the blood.

What Can I Do To Reduce Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water?

- **Run your water to flush out lead.** If water hasn't been used for several hours, run water for 15-30 seconds to flush lead from interior plumbing or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking.
- **Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.**
- **Do not boil water to remove lead.**
- **Look for alternative sources or treatment of water** (such as bottled water or water filters).
- **Re-test your water for lead periodically.**
- **Identify and replace plumbing fixtures containing lead.**

For More Information

Please call us at the phone number noted above (315-792-0301). For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/lead, call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider.