

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Rivermeadows Water District – High Concentrations of Copper in Drinking Water

Our water system recently violated a drinking water requirement. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what the District is doing to correct this situation.

We routinely sample water at consumers' taps for lead and copper. The tests indicate lead levels are well below the 0.015 mg/liter EPA maximum contaminate level. However, some tests have exceeded the 1.3 mg/liter EPA maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) for copper. Therefore, EPA is requiring the installation of corrosion control treatment. This treatment helps prevent lead and copper in the pipes from dissolving into the water. Corrosion control should have been installed by March 23, 2023, but installation is not complete.

What should I do?

Listed below are some steps you can take to reduce your exposure to lead and copper:

- You may contact us at the number below to find out how to get your water tested for lead and copper.
- Find out whether your pipes contain lead, copper, and/or lead solder.
- Run your water for 15-30 seconds or until it becomes cold before using it for drinking or cooking. This flushes any standing water from the pipes.
- Don't cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead and copper dissolve more easily into hot water.
- **Do not boil your water to remove lead and copper.** Excessive water boiling makes the lead and copper more concentrated – the lead and copper remain when the water evaporates.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within **24 hours**. Typically lead and copper enters water supplies by leaching from lead, brass, and copper pipes and plumbing components. New lead pipes and plumbing components are no longer allowed for this reason. Water is more likely to contain high lead levels if water pipes in or leading to your home are made of lead or contain lead solder. While many older homes may contain lead pipes, Rivermeadows homes generally have copper and plastic pipes. However, between 1983 and 1988, lead solder was typically used to connect copper piping.

Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink ~~this~~ water with excessive lead over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

What is being done?

The District is fine tuning the current water system operations in an effort to slightly raise the water pH level (less acidic), utilizing the current treatment processes. The District continues lead and copper testing twice each year.

Modifications to the existing water system require Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) review and permitting. While EPA is requiring corrosion control treatment, in initial communications, DEQ staff have questioned the benefits and expressed concerns over the complications of corrosion control treatment for small water systems.

In January 2024, a new well supply flow meter was installed which is a critical component for controlling the injection rate of corrosion control chemicals into the water supply. The District intends to complete the corrosion control treatment system design and prepare a permit submittal to DEQ by the end of February 2024. This will require DEQ to make a formal decision regarding this matter. Once the DEQ permit is approved, the corrosion control treatment equipment installation will likely require at least six months.

For more information, please contact: Matt Ostdiek, Rendezvous Engineering at 307-733-5252 or P.O. Box 4858, Jackson, WY 83001.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly. You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by the Rivermeadows Water District.

EPA Public Water System ID#: WY5600786.

Date distributed: 02/02/2024.