IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

Public Water System ID: CO-0207504

System Name: Meadow Mountain Water Supply Company

Our system found elevated levels of lead in the drinking water in some homes/buildings. 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.

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

When water is in contact with pipes or plumbing that contains 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 the 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 it hasn't been used for several hours, run the cold water tap until the temperature is noticeably colder. This flushes lead-containing water from the pipes. To conserve water, remember to catch the flushed tap water for plants or some other household use (e.g. cleaning).
2. ***Always use cold water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula.*** Never cook with or drink water from the hot water tap. Never use water from the hot water tap to make formula.
3. ***Do not boil water to remove lead. Boiling water will not reduce lead.***
4. ***Periodically remove and clean the faucet's strainer/aerator***. While removed, run the water to remove debris.
5. ***You may consider investing in a home water treatment device or alternative water source.*** When purchasing a water treatment device, make sure it is certified under Standard 53 by NSF International to remove lead. Contact NSF at 1-800-NSF-8010, or visit the Water Quality Association's website at www.wqa.org.
6. ***Identify and replace plumbing fixtures containing lead.*** Identify and replace plumbing fixtures containing lead. Brass faucets, fittings and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," may leach lead into drinking water. The NSF website at www.nsf.org has more information on lead-containing plumbing fixtures. You should use only lead-certified contractors.
7. ***Have a licensed electrician check your wiring.*** If grounding wires from the electrical system are attached to your pipes, corrosion may be greater. Check with a licensed electrician or your local electric code to determine if your wiring can be grounded elsewhere. ***DO NOT*** attempt to change the wiring yourself because improper grounding can cause electrical shock and fire hazards.

What happened & What is being done?

A regular water test of our water was performed on June 23rd 2013 for Lead and Copper. This test is performed at 5 home sites in our Triple Creek Sub-division, usually the oldest homes are tested. One of the homes tested was found to have a Lead level in their water sample above the Action Level (0.015 mg/L) as regulated by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). Two other homes were found to have traces of Lead in their water samples, but their samples were not above the Lead Action Level of 0.015 mg/L.
Our previous requirement per CDPHE was to test for Lead and Copper once every three years. We are due to test again this year in June 2016. As of February 1st, 2016., the CDPHE is now requiring MMWSC to start testing Lead and Copper on a six monthly basis, i.e. twice a year. It has also outlined a number of action points that MMWSC must start doing immediately, as detailed below:

1. You will see this published notice and a regular notification on your water bill as long as we have test sites that test above the Lead Action Level of 0.015, starting with this notification by the end of March 2016, and on your regular bills each quarter going forward.
2. Further tests are being performed to characterize our water; to test for Lead and Copper at the water plant and in our distribution system. These tests will be performed and reported to CDPHE by February 29th 2016. This step has been completed, test results are available on the website and all test results found no traces of Lead and Copper in our distribution system. These tests were performed at the entry point to the distribution system at the plant and at the end of the distribution system.
3. The consumers immediately affected have been notified of their test results for lead in their water.
4. If high levels of lead are found in our water we will be working on a Corrosion Control Treatment Recommendation that we will publish to our consumers via the website (see details below) and it will be submitted to CDPHE by June 30th 2016.
5. We will also be working on a Source Water Treatment Recommendation if test results show that source water needs to be treated, and this document will also be published on our website and will be submitted to CDPHE by June 30th 2016.

For More Information

For more information call us at [Rachel Barkworth (Board Member - Water Plant Supervisor) – Phone: 303-823-2318, or email RCBarkworth@yahoo.com; Penny Ross (Board Member - Distribution System Supervisor) – Phone: (970) 480-0336, or email dross174@comcast.net or visit our Web site at [www.meadowmountainwater.org].

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 health care provider.

Notice Provided by: Meadow Mountain Water Supply – Board Member Rachel Barkworth

Date: 03/31/2016