

PUBLIC NOTICE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Montgomery Water System, VT0005125 violated the

Lead and Copper Rule Revisions

Our water system recently violated drinking water requirements. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We were required to conduct an initial Lead Service Line Inventory and submit it to the State by October 16, 2024, per the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions published in 2021. Failure to do so is a treatment technique violation. The inventory is meant to assist with the identification and replacement of all lead or galvanized requiring replacement service lines.

What Are the Sources of Lead?

The primary sources of lead exposure are deteriorating lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust and soil, and some plumbing materials. Lead is rarely found in a water system's surface or groundwater source but may enter drinking water if plumbing materials such as solder or fixtures, including some made of chrome or brass, contain lead and corrode.

Homes built before 1989 in Vermont are more likely to have plumbing, solder, and fixtures that contain lead.

Health Effects of Lead

There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Some of the health effects to infants and children include decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can also result in new or worsened learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy may be at increased risk of these harmful health effects. Adults have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems. Contact your health care provider for more information about your risks.

Contact your local health department or healthcare provider for information on testing your child's blood for lead. You can also find more information at

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/environment/drinking-water/lead-drinking-water>.

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Steps You Can Take to Reduce Your Exposure to Lead In Your Water

- **Run your water to flush out lead.** Run water for 15-30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking. (The samples the water system is required to collect for testing must be taken after the water was sitting in the pipes for at least 6 hours, known as "first-draw" samples.)
- **Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Lead dissolves more easily into hot water.
- **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead.
- **Look for alternative sources or treatment of water.** You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. U.S. Food & Drug Administration set a limit for lead in bottled water of 5 parts per billion. Not all water filters remove lead. Check the product for independent testing from a group such as NSF International (NSF.org, 800-673-8010) that verifies a specific model of filter removes lead.
- **Test your water for lead.** Call us at the phone number below to find out how to get your water tested for lead by a certified laboratory. Results may differ between first-draw water and water collected after the tap has been flushed.
- **Identify and replace plumbing fixtures that contain lead.** The amount of lead allowed in plumbing solder and fixtures has been reduced by several state and federal laws over the last few decades.

What Happened? What is being done?

The Water System is applying to the State to get funding and help to complete the Lead Service line Inventory. As required by The State WaterSupply Division. It will consist of inspecting every service line in the water system to determine what the lines are in the houses and to fill out a report to make sure the The lines are lead free for the safety of the users of the Water System.

For more information from the water system, contact: Mark Brouillette at 802-309-8574 or email at publicworksmtgomery@gmail.com .

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.