What you can do to keep your tap water fresh and healthy

Regardless of where you live or when your home was built, there are steps you can take right away to further limit possible exposure to lead and also ensure the water coming from your tap is fresh and free from particles.

RUN TAP WATER for several minutes before use to flush out any particles or other metals that may dissolve into the water while standing for long periods of time.

ONLY USE COLD WATER for cooking or drinking. Hot water can more easily dissolve lead and other metals into the water.

CLEAN FAUCET AERATORS regularly. Remove the screen and aerator from faucets, rinse out any particles, and reattach.

HIRE a plumber to inspect fixtures and plumbing and update if necessary.

Learn more about EPA's Lead and Copper Rule and measures we are taking to protect public health and ensure your tap water is clean, safe, and fresh.

SCAN ME

Find more information here about lead and steps you can take to reduce lead exposure.

Portland Water District
FROM SEBAGO LAKE TO CASCO BAY

225 Douglass Street
Portland, Maine 04102
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www.pwd.org

Protecting Public Health

Minimizing lead exposure

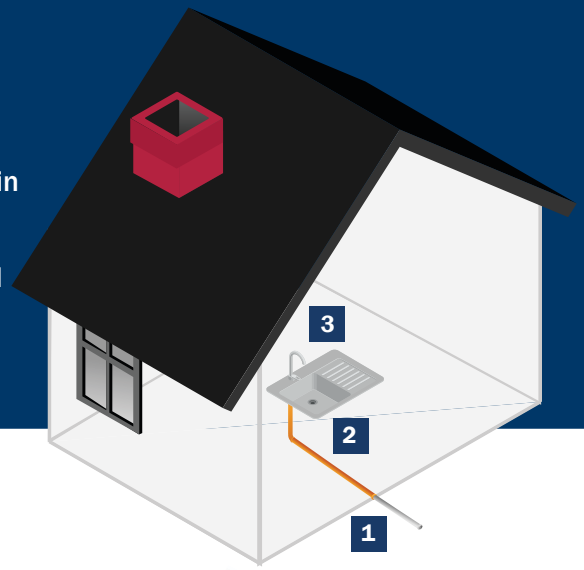
Our commitment

Providing safe, reliable water is our top priority. To ensure that your water meets all state and federal safety standards, we analyze more than 15,000 samples every year for a wide range of contaminants, including lead. The good news - Sebago Lake has no naturally occurring lead.

Portland Water District
FROM SEBAGO LAKE TO CASCO BAY

The issue

Lead, a material sometimes used in water systems until 1930 in our area and in household plumbing into the 1980s, poses a serious health risk, particularly to developing fetuses, infants, and children. Lead can be present in some service line pipes that connect older homes to the water system and in home plumbing and fixtures. It is estimated that up to 10% of a person's lead exposure could come from water.



Possible sources of lead

1. Lead service line
2. Copper pipe with lead solder
3. Faucets & fixtures

Our response

In order to protect the public from the possibility of lead dissolving into the water from pipes and fixtures, we have adjusted the water's chemistry at the treatment plant. Since optimizing corrosion control treatment in 2002, the PWD has successfully reduced lead exposure and has been in full compliance with all aspects of the current rule.

Balanced Water Chemistry provides a protective layer to prevent pipe corrosion.

Good news

Our records indicate that we have no lead service lines on the public portion of the water system.

Now new rules are requiring public utilities to:

- Assess and determine if service lines on the private side are made of lead
- Expand public education
- Update our sampling plan
- Develop lead sampling plans for schools and childcare facilities