

**CHERRY CREEK VALLEY WATER  
AND SANITATION  
DISTRICT**



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July 22, 2019

Water provided to Cherry Creek Valley Water and Sanitation District customers is purchased from Denver Water. Denver Water has been ordered by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the Environmental Protection Agency to add orthophosphate to its treatment process starting in March 2020. The orthophosphate will reduce the risk of lead entering drinking water in homes from lead service lines and lead plumbing owned by the customer. Denver Water is proposing an alternative approach to adding orthophosphate. To read about the alternative, go to <https://www.denverwater.org/your-water/water-quality/lead/lead-reduction-program>.

**The District has no record of lead service lines for customers in the Cherry Creek Valley Water and Sanitation District.** Lead service lines are more common in structures built before 1951. To order a lead test kit from Denver Water, go to <https://www.denverwater.org/your-water/water-quality/lead/request-lead-test> or call 303-893-2444. To learn more about Denver Water's lead reduction program, go to <https://www.denverwater.org/your-water/water-quality/lead>.

Water rates are expected to increase to District customers in 2021 for either alternative. Please see reverse side for a notice from Denver Water.



## Denver Water Seeking Input on Proposed Lead Reduction Program

On July 1, Denver Water announced the launch of a summer education and outreach program to share information about a proposed Lead Reduction Program Plan. Denver Water is now seeking the public's input on an executive summary of the plan through Aug. 7 to inform the final recommendation being submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency later this summer. The EPA will seek further public comment on the final plan this fall before it decides which approach will be implemented.

When it comes to lead in drinking water, no levels are safe, which is why Denver Water is working to further reduce potential lead exposure for customers with lead service lines and plumbing. The water delivered to homes and businesses is lead-free, but lead can get into the water as it moves through these customers' lead-containing plumbing and service lines.

For nearly 30 years, Denver Water has conducted water quality monitoring at homes with known lead and copper service lines and plumbing, as part of the Lead and Copper Rule. In 2012, sample results exceeded the level the Environmental Protection Agency requires for taking action.

Denver Water has not exceeded the lead action level since 2012 and remains in compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule today. However, Denver Water is required to implement the best method to permanently reduce lead in tap water. In 2018, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment designated orthophosphate, a food additive, as the best method.

Denver Water is proposing an alternative, holistic approach to orthophosphate that directly tackles the biggest issue, customer-owned lead service lines, at its source by accelerating the removal of those lines through a Lead Reduction Program.

Learn more, request a water quality test kit and provide feedback on Denver Water's proposed alternative at [denverwater.org/Lead](https://denverwater.org/Lead). If you'd like additional information, you can also call **303-893-2444** or email [lead@denverwater.org](mailto:lead@denverwater.org).

# Denver Water Lead Reduction Program

## + Background

Denver Water delivers safe, lead-free water to customers, but lead can get into water as it moves through customers' lead-containing household plumbing and service lines.

We want to ensure that the water that comes out of our customers' taps is safe and contains no lead, no matter the source. For nearly 30 years, Denver Water has conducted water quality monitoring at homes with known lead and copper service lines and plumbing.

In 2012, sample results exceeded the level the Environmental Protection Agency requires for taking action. Denver Water has not exceeded the lead action level since 2012. However, Denver Water is still required to implement the best method to permanently reduce lead in tap water.

## + Solutions

Denver Water is working with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the EPA to further reduce potential lead exposure for customers with lead service lines and lead plumbing. In 2018, CDPHE designated orthophosphate as the best method.

Denver Water is considering submitting a request to the EPA to use an alternative approach instead of orthophosphate. It would be a multipart program that combines increasing the pH level for corrosion control along with providing at-home filters for all customers with a lead service line, free of charge, until the lines are removed, also at no cost to the customer.

## + Benefits

This proposed alternative is intended to reduce levels of lead in drinking water and prevent the discharge of nutrient pollution to rivers and streams, reducing potential negative water quality impacts associated with excess nutrients in surface waters.



### What is Lead?

Lead is a type of metal found naturally in the earth. It is toxic to humans and can get into our bodies when we breathe or swallow something that has lead in it or on it. Lead builds up in the body over time, so ongoing exposure, even at low levels, may eventually cause health effects.



### Taking Action

The EPA action level is designed as an indicator that additional steps may need to be taken to optimize corrosion control treatment.



### What is orthophosphate?

Orthophosphate is a food additive commonly added to water to minimize corrosion and reduce the amount of lead released from pipes and fixtures. It has been safely and successfully used across the country. Orthophosphate can impact wastewater treatment plants and the downstream environment. CDPHE, Denver Water and others are studying these potential impacts.



### Lead Reduction Program

- + Lead filter program
- + Accelerated lead service line removal
- + Corrosion control treatment (pH level adjustments)

## Process

### Summer 2019

- + Continued analysis and small-scale testing of Denver Water's proposed approach.
- + Ongoing community events to collect input on the approach.
- + In August 2019, Denver Water will submit the official variance request.

### Fall 2019 (Expected)

- + EPA will decide whether to allow Denver Water to pursue the alternative to orthophosphate.
- + Ongoing community outreach.

### 2020 and Beyond

- + Once fully studied, Denver Water is prepared to implement the final decision.