



Arkansas Department of Health

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It has come to the attention of the City of Ward and the Arkansas Department of Health that some homeowners in the Ward Waterworks water system service area have experienced some copper plumbing failures. Regular testing of Ward Water has not identified increased levels of lead and copper on the water system; however, in order to determine if there has been a change in the corrosiveness (abrasiveness) of the water, we are asking the Ward Waterworks to more frequently monitor for lead and copper corrosion and to also increase the number of samples it collects during its monitoring periods. If you would like for your home to be tested and included in this monitoring, please contact the City of Ward at 501-843-2271 and ask to speak with the water operator.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established a copper action level in drinking water of 1.3 parts per million. Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress (stomach ache). Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal physician.

EPA has established a lead action level in drinking water of 0.015 parts per million. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems especially for pregnant women and young children. 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 over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing.

When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead and copper exposure by flushing your tap for 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you suspect that you might have lead service line, you will need to flush for a longer time-period depending on the plumbing configuration at your residence.

If you are concerned about the potential presence of copper or lead in your water, you may wish to use a point of use filter. These filters are available at your local discount or hardware store and can be purchased for pour through pitchers, faucets, and refrigerators. Filters that are certified to reduce lead are certified by NSF International and carry the mark "NSF 53" on the packaging along with a lead reduction claim. A search can be conducted at the following link: <http://info.nsf.org/Certified/DWTU/>. Additional information on identifying point of use filters can be found on the EPA site at: <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/consumer-tool-identifying-pou-drinking-water-filters-certified-reduce-lead>

If you have any questions, you may contact the Ward Waterworks at 501-843-2271 or this office at 501-661-2623.