



**LEAD PUBLIC EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS AND CHECKLIST
SMALL (<3,300) COMMUNITY SYSTEMS**

ARM 17.38.239 (40 CFR 141.85) Requires public water supplies that exceed the lead action level to provide information to their customers about the risks associated with elevated lead levels, to provide information on what the public water supply is doing to address lead in drinking water and to advise the customers on actions individuals can take to reduce their chance of exposure to elevated lead in drinking water.

Public Water Supply Name: _____ PWSID _____

Requirement	Timing	Date Completed
Deliver printed materials (pamphlets, brochures, posters) to all bill paying customers.	Within 60 days after the end of the monitoring period in which the exceedance occurred and repeating once every 12 months*	
Provide information on or in each water bill (no less than quarterly or state can approve a separate mailing) ¹	Each billing cycle for as long as the system exceeds the lead action level	
Implement additional Public Education activities (Choose 1): 1.Display Information in Public Areas 2.Delivery to Every Household 3.Public Meetings 4.Provide Materials Directly to Multi-Family housing. 5.Individual Contact with Customers 6.Public Service Announcements 7.Paid Advertisements 8.Email to Customers	Within 60 days and repeating once every 12 months*	
Submit press release to newspaper, television, and radio stations. ²	Within 60 days and repeating once every 12 months*	
Deliver public education materials to the following facilities and organizations that are served by the system that are most likely to be visited regularly by pregnant women and children: 1. Local public health agencies 2. Schools or school boards 3. Women Infants and Children and Head Start programs 4. Public and private hospitals and medical clinics 5. Pediatricians	Within 60 days and repeating once every 12 months*	

6. Family planning clinics 7. Local welfare agencies		
Requirement	Timing	Date Completed
Make a good faith effort to locate the following organizations within the service area and deliver materials that meet the content requirements, along with an informational notice that encourages distribution to all potentially affected customers or users. 1. Licensed childcare centers 2. Public and private preschools 3. Obstetricians-Gynecologists and Midwives	Within 60 days and repeating once every 12 months*	
Complete this checklist and send copies of all public education requirements to Montana DEQ	Within 10 days of completing the public education requirements	

¹ Water Bill Language: [INSERT NAME OF YOUR WATER SYSTEM] found high levels of lead in drinking water in some homes. Lead can cause serious health problems. For more information, please call [INSERT NAME AND PHONE NUMBER OF WATER SYSTEM] or visit www.epa.gov/lead.

² For small systems, if no media outlets are available that serve the population served by the system, the State can waive this requirement.

Customizable templates for brochures, posters, email announcements, web site announcements, PSA and press releases are available online at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lcrmr/compliancehelp.html>.

Please attach copies of the brochure, posters, water bills along with this completed form and return to the Department of Environmental Quality, PWS, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901.

GENERAL PUBLIC NOTICE TEMPLATE

The following language meets the revised PE requirements of the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR). Your notice must include the topic areas in bold below. Anything in italics under each topic area is required language and cannot be changed while anything in regular text must be covered, but you may use either the suggested language or your own words to cover the subject.

Your notice must begin with the following opening statement (though you have the option to include a title of the pamphlet or brochure of your choosing):

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

[Insert name of water system] found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and children 6 years and younger. Please read this notice closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

This notice is brought to you by [insert the name of your water system]. State Water System ID# [insert your water system's ID number] Date [Insert the date distributed]

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 8 percent lead to be labeled as "lead free." However, plumbing fixtures labeled National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certified may only have up to 2 percent lead. Consumers should be aware of this when choosing fixtures and take appropriate precautions.

[Insert utility specific information describing your community's source water – e.g. "The source of water from XX Reservoir does not contain lead" or "Community X does not have any lead in its source water or water mains in the street."] When water is in contact with pipes [or service lines] 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 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.** Run water for 15-30 seconds [or insert a different flushing time if your system has representative data indicating a different flushing time would better reduce lead exposure in your community and if the State Primacy Agency approves the wording] or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking, if it hasn't been used for several hours. This flushes lead-containing water from the pipes.
- 2. Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
- 3. Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead.
- 4. Look for alternative sources or treatment of water.** You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or www.nsf.org for information on performance standards for water filters. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to protect water quality.
- 5. Test your water for lead.** Call us at [insert phone number for your water system] to find out how to get your water tested for lead. [Include information on your water system's testing program. For example, do you provide free testing? Are there labs in your area that are certified to do lead in water testing?]
- 6. Get your child tested.** Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about exposure.
- 7. Identify if your plumbing fixtures contain lead.** 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 8% lead to be labeled as "lead free." Visit the National Sanitation Foundation Web site at www.nsf.org to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures.

What Happened? What is Being Done?

[Insert information about how and when the exceedance was discovered in your community and provide information on the source(s) of lead in the drinking water, if known.]

[Insert information about what your system is doing to reduce lead levels in homes in your community.]

[Insert information about lead service lines in your community, how a consumer can find out if they have a lead service line, what your water system is doing to replace lead service lines, etc.]

[Insert information about the history of lead levels in tap water samples in your community. For example, have they declined substantially over time? Have they been low and risen recently? Is there a known reason for any lead level changes?]

For More Information

Call us at [Insert Number] or (if applicable) visit our Web site at [insert Web site Here]. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/lead or contact your health care provider.