

# Lead Regulations that affect Montana's Drinking Water

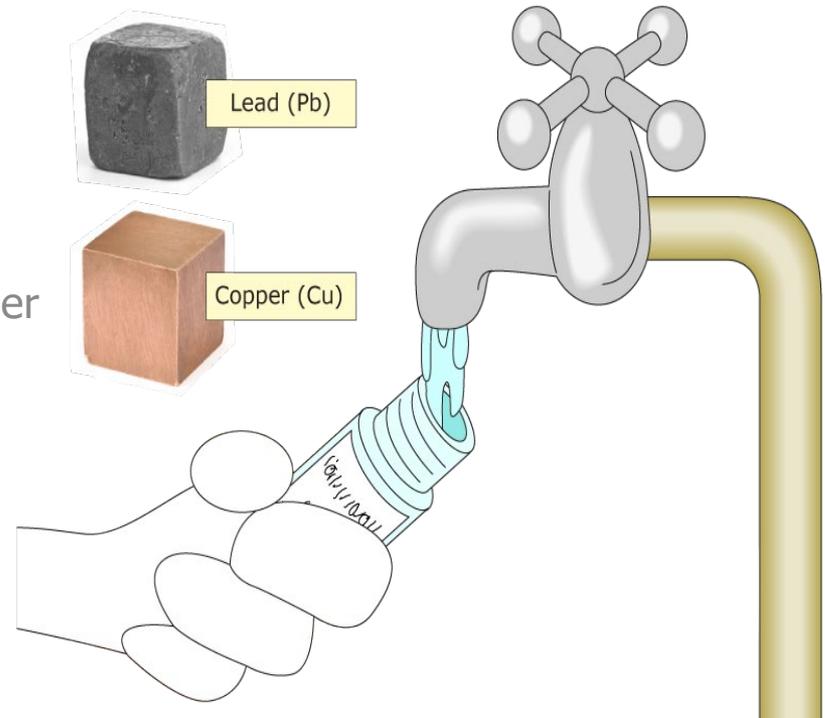
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# Lead Regulations for Drinking Water in MT

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- **Lead & Copper Rule**

- Federal (adopted in 1991 with a number of revisions thereafter)
- Focused on protecting public health by minimizing lead and copper levels in drinking water, primarily by reducing water corrosivity.

- **Lead Reduction in School Drinking Water Program**

- Montana Requirement (adopted by DPHHS on 1/18/20)
- Focused on reducing lead exposure to children in schools by sampling/remediating water fixtures and plumbing.

# Why Do We Need to Sample for Lead & Copper

- Lead
  - Lead can cause damage to the brain, red blood cells and kidneys.
  - Children are the most at risk.
    - Behavior and learning problems
    - Lower IQ and hyperactivity
    - Slowed growth
    - Hearing problems
    - Anemia
- Copper
  - Copper can cause stomach and intestinal distress; liver and kidney damage; complications of Wilson's disease.

# Sources of Lead in Drinking Water



# Lead & Copper Rule

- EPA established the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) in 1991 to protect public health and reduce exposure to lead in drinking water. Focused on minimizing lead and copper levels in drinking water, primarily by reducing water corrosivity.
- LCR applies to Community and Non-Community Non-Transient public water systems.
- EPA requires water systems to test for lead at the tap in certain homes, including those with lead service lines. Systems compare sample results from homes to EPA's action level of 0.015 mg/L for Lead and 1.3 mg/L for Copper. If 10 percent of the samples from these homes have water concentrations that are greater than the action level, then the system must perform actions such as Corrosion control, public education and lead service line replacement.

# Lead & Copper Rule Revision

The Lead & Copper Rule had a major revision (LCRR) on December 16, 2021 with an implementation date on October 16, 2024. The LCRR adds a significant number of new requirements on the water systems and the state.

- New Trigger Level for lead (0.010 mg/L)
- Lead Service Line Inventories (LSL)\*\*\* (only requirement due by 10/16/2024)
- LSL replacement plans & replacement requirements
- New site sampling plans
- New sampling procedures
- Expanded Corrosion Control Treatment requirements
- Find-and-Fix provisions to address elevated results at individual sites
- Public notification requirements
- Lead testing at schools/childcare facilities

EPA will be revising the rule again with the Lead & Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI). The LCRI is supposed to be out prior the October 16, 2024 implementation date, and may revise all of the above requirements EXCEPT for the LSL inventories.

# Lead Reduction in School Drinking Water Program

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- In January 2020, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) adopted amendments to the administrative rules regarding the matter of health in Montana schools. The amendments included requirements pertaining to reducing lead in schools' drinking water. It requires all schools accredited by the Montana Board of Public Education to sample for lead in schools' drinking water.
- DEQ implements the program on behalf of DPHHS.
- All drinking water fountains and kitchen fixtures used for drinking or food preparation must be sampled. As well as all other fixtures that have the potential of being used for food prep or drinking (classroom sinks, bathroom sinks, nurse's office, concession stands, etc..).
- Any fixture with lead results 0.005 mg/L or greater have to be addressed (replace, remove, filter, plumbing replacement)
- Schools are required to flushing their plumbing system whenever the to school is inactive for greater than 3 days

# Questions or Comments?

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**DON'T DELAY,  
TEST FOR LEAD  
TODAY!**

The Deadline for Lead in School Drinking  
Water Testing is December 2021

For more info  
click here

**DEQ** Montana Department of  
Environmental Quality