

EMIGRATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Enhanced Consumer Notice Review Lead/Copper Water Sample Results

If you are on Emigration Improvement District's water system, you would have received an "Enhanced Consumer Notice" for lead & copper sampling results alerting customers of the elevated lead levels discovered in three of the homes recently tested. The Enhanced Consumer Notice was a precautionary notice under the direction from Division of Drinking Water (DDW) notifying our customers of the issue until further testing could be performed.

In the meantime, the District was able to retest (2) two of the (3) three homes with elevated lead levels and the lab results came back significantly under the EPA action levels of 0.015 mg/L (0.0013 and 0.0008 mg/L). The third home is on hold until the homeowners return from vacation. Further testing of the District's wells resulted in **No detection of lead (ND) in all three wells currently in operation. The detection of lead is likely the result of the plumbing within the homes tested, not from the water being provided by the Emigration Improvement District.**

As part of this testing process, the District identifies 10 homes built during the early 1980's. (During this time it is was common to have lead based solder and lead used in various parts of a home plumbing system.) The homeowner is provided specific instructions in collecting the water sample and returns the sample to the District. These samples are then submitted to the lab for analysis. The lab orders the sample results from lowest detected levels to the highest and the test result is taken from the 90th percentile and then compared with the EPA action level of 0.015 mg/L. If a sample has been taken from a tap that has been infrequently used, a hot water supply, or from water that has been stagnant for a long period of time, a test may result in escalated lead levels.

At this point, the follow-up test data points to the elevated lead levels on the initial test may have been a result of the samples pulled from an infrequently used tap. However, of even more importance is all 10 of the homes tested initially came back with some levels of lead detected, some barely over the minimum lead detection limit of 0.0005 mg/L.



Certified Lead Labs in Salt Lake County

AMERICAN WEST ANALYTICAL LAB
3440 South 700 West
Salt Lake City, UT 84115
(p) 801-263-8686

CHEMTECH FORD
9632 South 500 West
Sandy, UT 84070
(p) 801-569-7952

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIV OF LAB SERVICES
4431 South 2700 West
Taylorsville, UT 84119
(p) 801-965-2400



The EPA has set the goal level for lead in drinking water at zero due to its toxicity and its ability to bio-accumulate in the body over time. Lead exposure has been linked to neurological damage, learning disabilities, impaired hearing and impaired formation of blood cells, particularly in young children and developing fetuses.

As a general guideline, when your water has been sitting for several hours, flush the pipes by running the cold water tap until the water is noticeably colder before using the water for drinking or cooking. The longer water has been sitting in the pipes, the more dissolved metals it may contain. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula. Hot water may contain higher levels of lead or copper. Routinely clean the filter screens and aerators in faucets to remove any captured particles. You may want to consider filtering the water. Be sure the filter is a certified filter to remove lead and copper.

There are a number of cost effective filters on the market from water filter pitchers to reverse osmosis systems and are a great way to protect your drinking water as long as the filters are replaced routinely. Unchanged old filters may only increase the health risks of the water, so make sure you follow the manufacturers recommendations on replacement. Lastly, if you are remodeling, use only “lead free” materials and if possible remove any plumbing materials that used lead in the soldering of copper pipes or brass fixtures. Most plumbing materials today use poly piping, lead free soldering or crimp on type fittings.

The Emigration Improvement District will continue to work with the Division of Drinking Water in this matter through continued and increased testing of homes and closely monitoring District water sources, including the distribution system, to ensure the safety and quality of the water being provided to each of our customers. If you are a homeowner and would like to have your water tested for lead and copper there is a list of certified labs that can assist you in the process on the front page. The cost of the test ranges from \$20 to \$33 depending the lab you choose. The District would encourage any homeowner, whether on the public water system or a private well, to have their water tested for lead.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Sources of Lead in Water
Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov/lead

Lead & Health
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead

Bottled Water Info & Lead
Food and Drug Administration
www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/bottled-water-everywhere-keeping-it-safe

Types of Water Filters
The Safe Healthy Home.com
<https://thesafehealthyhome.com/best-lead-removal-water-filters/>

In the News
Salt Lake Tribune
<https://www.sltrib.com/news/environment/2019/11/08/lead-shows-up-emigration/>

