

SIERRA LAKES COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

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There has been significant news coverage concerning the presence of lead in drinking water, first in Flint Michigan and later at schools and other public facilities throughout the United States. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children.

Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines (from the street to your house) and/or home plumbing. The Sierra Lakes County Water District is not aware of any lead service laterals, but does not control the variety of materials (faucets/fixtures/piping/solder) that could have been used when your home was constructed. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/lead>.

The District tests the lake water for a total of 38 different constituents at intervals ranging from quarterly to nine years. Every three years, 10 homes are sampled for the presence of lead and copper; the last round of sampling was done in 2014 with the following results:

- All ten homes were non-detect for lead; the laboratory's detection threshold is 2 µg/l (microgram per liter equivalent to one part per billion), the District is required to take action if one of the ten samples contains 15 µg/l or more of lead.
- All of the homes showed low levels of copper; the 90th percentile concentration was 91 µg/l while the action threshold is 1,300 µg/l.

The District adds a small amount of Zinc Orthophosphate to the finished water for internal corrosion protection of pipes and fixtures which reduces the potential for leaching of lead and copper.

Please do not hesitate to contact the District if you have any questions concerning lead in drinking water or the quality of the drinking water in general.