

Does My Drinking Water Contain Lead?

At Aqua Water Supply, our first commitment is to safeguard public health, and we take seriously our responsibility to protect members and their families from exposure to lead or other harmful substances. Aqua regularly monitors and reports on water quality in accordance with regulatory requirements and guidance, issuing an annual report in June. To read the most recent 2015 water quality report from Aqua Water Supply, please visit: www.aquawsc.com/content/2015_CCR.pdf.

With the recent news about contaminated water in Flint, Michigan, some homeowners may have questions about lead and drinking water. Following are answers to some general questions. For more information, visit www.Drinktap.org.

- **How is lead in drinking water regulated?**

In January 2011, Congress passed a law to modify the Safe Drinking Water Act, changing the definition of the term "lead-free" for all the components used in drinking water systems. This means that since January 2014 when the new law went into effect, all new pipes, plumbing fixtures, meters, valves, etc. that come into contact with drinking water can't contain more than a maximum of 0.25% lead. For more information on the lead-free standard, see Section 1417 of the Safe Drinking Water Act on the EPA website: www.epa.gov.

- **Does my water contain lead?**

The majority of Aqua's water distribution pipeline is made from PVC plastic, not metal. Aqua Water began purchasing lead-free meters, valves and other metal components in advance of the new law, and we were fully compliant with the lead-free requirement for new system components well before the deadline. In addition, Aqua's water supply comes from a section of the Carrizo-Wilcox underground aquifer where the water generally is not corrosive.

- **What can I do to prevent lead in my water?**

Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of corrosion or wearing away of materials in pipelines and household plumbing, such as in older homes where lead solder was used to connect copper pipes. When replacing plumbing in your home, be sure to look for products that have been certified to be lead-free.

Household plumbing fixtures like faucets and valves can contain small amounts of lead. Be sure to use cold tap water for cooking or drinking, as lead leaches more easily into hot water.

You can reduce the risk of lead in tap water by running cold water to flush your home plumbing before consuming water, particularly in the morning, after work, or anytime the water has been sitting in your home's pipes for a while. To conserve water, other household water uses, like showering or flushing the toilet, can be an effective way to allow fresh water to enter household plumbing.