

The City of Lowell
Lowell Regional Water Utility
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Lowell, MA 01854

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3-7-18*

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LOWELL REGIONAL WATER UTILITY IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT OUR DRINKING WATER CORROSION CONTROL TREATMENT

Our public drinking water system provides corrosion control treatment to ensure that lead or copper from service connections and household plumbing is not likely to leach into the drinking water before it arrives at your tap. Our corrosion control treatment consists of pH, Alkalinity and Zinc-Orthophosphate adjustment. The effectiveness of our corrosion control treatment is primarily determined by our analysis of lead and copper samples and their compliance with the lead and copper Action Levels. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's (MassDEP's) Action Level for lead is 0.015 milligrams per liter (mg/L) or 15 parts per billion (ppb), and the Action Level for copper is 1.3 mg/L or 1300 ppb. Based on our required sampling of 50 MassDEP-approved sites, our system is in compliance with the lead and copper Action Levels. Because effective corrosion control involves the continuous balancing of chemical additions to keep water quality within planned targets, our corrosion control treatment performance is also evaluated by our ability to maintain planned target treatment levels for pH, alkalinity, and phosphates.

What should I do?

- **This is not an emergency. If it was an emergency, we would have notified you within 24 hours.**
- **You do not need to take any actions.** However, if the water has not been used for six hours or more, it is good routine drinking water practice to run your water for 15-30 seconds or until it becomes cold before using it for drinking or cooking. This helps to flush out any standing lead or copper from your internal plumbing.
- As always, if you have questions about your health, contact your health care provider.

What happened?

Recently we were notified by MassDEP that even though we are in compliance with the lead and copper Action Levels, we have missed some of our planned targets for alkalinity and phosphates within a six month period (July 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017). Deviations outside of our planned target ranges can impact the effectiveness of our corrosion control treatment and influence how much lead and copper leaches out of our pipes.

What is being done?

We are providing you with this notice to keep you informed about our system and our corrosion control treatment practices and to let you know what we are doing to maintain our planned treatment targets. To ensure that we continue to meet our corrosion control treatment planned targets and improve future operations, our system took or will take following actions:

- Maintain a pH range between 7.5 and 8.5 at the point of entry (POE).
- Maintain an Orthophosphate residual range between 2.5 and 3.0 mg/L (at POE).
- Maintain a minimum Alkalinity residual of 24 mg/L (at POE).
- We will continue to keep you informed about this issue.

For more information, please contact Eliana Morales, Laboratory Director at 978-674-1678; emmorales@lowellma.gov

For more information on the Lead and Copper Rule and corrosion control see:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/lead-in-drinking-water.html>

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by:
Eliana Morales, Laboratory Director

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