

Subject: Questions about lead in City water

Dear Valued Customer,

The Water Division has received several inquiries from customers with concerns about lead in the drinking water. Because we value your trust, we'd like to reassure you that since 1993 we have routinely monitored for lead in our drinking water supply as required by State and Federal Rules. Sampling requirements are based on the population served; we currently collect and analyze thirty (30) samples for lead every three (3) years.

Lead is rarely found in source water but enters tap water through corrosion of plumbing materials. Homes built before 1986 are more likely to have lead pipes, fixtures, and solder. Our sampling plan is developed to test samples from higher-risk service areas, and pre-1986 construction dates are what we look for when selecting residences to sample.

Lead monitoring results dating back to 1993 have been consistently below the limits established by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. Our sampling results are reviewed by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, and results are provided to the US Environmental Protection Agency. Under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act, the US Environmental Protection Agency set the action level for lead in drinking water at **15 parts per billion (ppb) or .015 milligrams per liter (mg/l)**.

**City of Post Falls' 2019 measured and reported lead value was 1.9 parts per billion(ppb) or .0019 milligrams per liter(mg/l), which is 7.8 times below the lead action level.**

If you are concerned about the lead levels at your home, or simply wish to minimize any exposure, there are several things you can do:

- Run your water to flush out lead. If water hasn't been used for several hours, run water for 15-30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking. This will help flush lead-containing water from the pipes.
- Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula. Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
- Install a filter system designed to remove lead on your primary cold-water tap used for drinking or cooking.
- Identify if your plumbing fixtures contain lead. Brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," may contribute lead to drinking water. Prior to January 2014, the law allowed fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 8% lead to be labeled as "lead-free." "Lead-free" is now defined as a weighted average of less than or equal to 0.25%. To learn more about lead-containing fixtures, visit [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org).

If you have additional questions about lead or other water quality issues, feel free to call the Water Division at 208-777-9857, email us at [waterdivision@postfallsidaho.org](mailto:waterdivision@postfallsidaho.org). You can also contact Idaho's Department of Environmental Quality at 208-769-1422 with your water quality questions. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead), call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your healthcare provider.

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