

## IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

### BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE NOTICE BELOW:



*Please read complete notice for details.*



- **This is not an emergency.**
- City is required to routinely check water samples for lead and copper.
- On 8.22.24 the City tested thirty-three (33) water samples from residential homes (constructed prior to 1990\*).
- Test results showed four (4) of those samples exceeded the published action levels (AL) for lead by the EPA, but not for copper.
- State Division of Drinking Water requires cities to provide this notice to ALL water customers if 90% of samples are below the action level.
- This is not an emergency, but customers should be informed about what happened, what to do and what the City is doing to correct the situation.

***\*Homes constructed prior to 1990 used copper water pipes with solder containing lead and plumbing fixtures containing lead more often than homes built after 1990.***

The City of North Salt Lake, Water System, I.D. UT 06019, is providing you with the lead and copper test results for the system.

The City's water system has recently exceeded the Environmental Protection Agency's established Action Level for lead. The City is providing this notice to all of its water customers as required by the State Division of Drinking Water. This notice contains information about both lead and copper test results. However, the City's test results show that certain samples within the water system exceeded the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) standards for lead, but not for copper. Although this is not an emergency, as a customer you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what the City is doing to correct the situation.

### **How to Interpret Results**

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Test results we received on 8/22/2024 show that our system exceeds the standard or action level (AL) for lead. The standard or action level for lead is 0.015 mg/L and 1.3 mg/L for copper. The action level is a measure of corrosion control effectiveness published by the EPA. It is not a health-based standard. To meet the requirements of the Lead and Copper Rule, 90 percent of the samples collected must be below the action level. The following test results were derived from thirty-three (33) sample locations from inside residential homes constructed prior to 1990. It is believed that prior to 1990, residential construction used copper water pipes with solder containing lead and

plumbing fixtures containing lead more frequently than in current construction practices. Also in the results below, four (4) samples exceeded the published action levels for lead; thus, exceeding the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile for results samples containing more than 0.015 mg/L for lead.

## Results

Contaminant	EPA Published Action Level	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Result
Lead	15ug/L (or 0.015 mg/L)	0.016 mg/L
Copper	1,300 ug/L (or 1.3 mg/L)	0.3626

**ug/L** is interpreted as micrograms per liter, the equivalent **mg/L** (milligrams per liter) conversion is included in the table above. These are measures of the concentration by weight (milligrams) of a substance per unit volume (liters).

## Future City Action

The City is required to perform a comprehensive test in the manner described above every three years. Since the latest test results exceed the EPA published action level for lead, the City will now be required to perform these tests every six months until test results fall below the action level for two consecutive test periods. The City will also be testing for lead and copper at entry points in our distribution system in the next ninety (90) days. The City believes the source of the lead in the four samples exceeding the action level is from water pipes within the homes where the samples were taken and not from the general water distribution system.

The City is also required to take an additional sixty (60) samples in the same manner by December 31, 2024. It is our intention to publish results of all water sampling on the City's website at [www.nslcity.org](http://www.nslcity.org).

## Steps You Can Take to Reduce Your Exposure to Lead in Your Water

1. Run your water to flush out lead. The more time water has been sitting in your home's pipes, the more lead it may contain. Therefore, if your water has not been used for several hours, run the water before using it for drinking or cooking. This flushes lead-containing water from the pipes. Additional flushing may be required for homes that have been vacant or have a longer service line.
2. Everyone can consider using a filter to reduce lead in drinking water. Look for filters that are tested and certified to *NSF/ANSI Standard 53* for lead reduction and *NSF/ANSI Standard 42* for particulate reduction. Some filter options include a pour-through pitcher or faucet-mount systems. If the label does not specifically mention lead reduction, check the Performance Date Sheet included with the device. Be sure to maintain and replace the filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
3. Use cold water for drinking and cooking. Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap, lead dissolves more easily into hot water.
4. Do not boil water to remove lead. Boiling water will not reduce lead levels.



System Tested and Certified by NSF International against NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for the reduction of Lead.

5. Identify older plumbing fixtures that likely contain lead. Older faucets, fittings, and valves sold before 2014 may contain higher levels of lead, even if marked “lead free.” When purchasing new plumbing materials, it is important to look for materials that are certified to meet NSF standard 61. The EPA prepared a brochure that explains the various markings that can indicate that materials meet the new “lead free” definition: <https://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPDF.cgi?Dockkey=P100LVYK.txt>.
6. Clean your aerator. The aerator on the end of your faucet is a screen that will catch debris. This debris could include particulate lead.
7. Test your water for lead. Call us at 801-335-8726 to find out additional information on how to get your water tested for lead. Testing can be completed by a certified laboratory for a cost.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit EPA’s Web site at [Epa.gov/lead](http://Epa.gov/lead), call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your healthcare provider.

You may also contact City Staff members below:

Carmen Wilson, Public Works Administration  
 (801) 335-8726  
[carmenw@nslcity.org](mailto:carmenw@nslcity.org)

Jon Rueckert, Public Works Director  
 (801) 335-8727  
[jonr@nslcity.org](mailto:jonr@nslcity.org)

John Lovato, Water Division Foreman  
 (801) 335-8685  
[jonl@nslcity.org](mailto:jonl@nslcity.org)

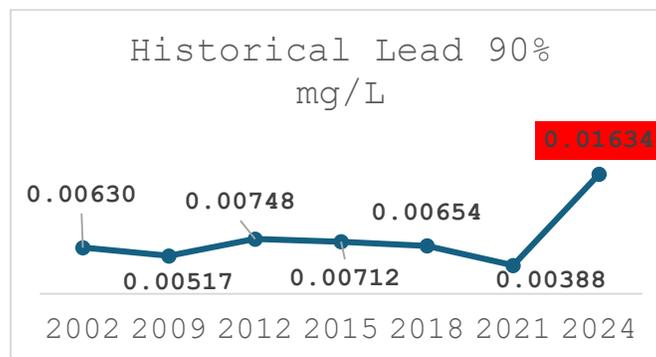
David Frandsen, Assistant City Manager  
 (801) 335-8684  
[davidf@nslcity.org](mailto:davidf@nslcity.org)

### Additional Information

The City of North Salt Lake has compiled an inventory of water service lines in the distribution system. This survey documents the service line material type connected to the water main and line material type beyond the water meter into homes and businesses. Locations listed as “unknown material” are being investigated on an ongoing basis. This may include excavating some locations to determine material type. This map can be accessed at [www.nslcity.org](http://www.nslcity.org).

The water system continually identifies and budgets to replace aging and inadequate infrastructure. In the last ten years, approximately 23,275 linear feet of water lines have been replaced in the City. This represents 40% of cast iron and AC water lines in the system.

The figure below is a summary of the City’s historical testing results for lead in the water system:



The remainder of this notice contains information about lead including what you can do to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water.

### **Health Effects of Lead**

- Lead can cause serious health and development problems including damage to the brain, kidneys and can interfere with the production of red blood cells.
- The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women.
- Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults.

### **Sources of Lead**

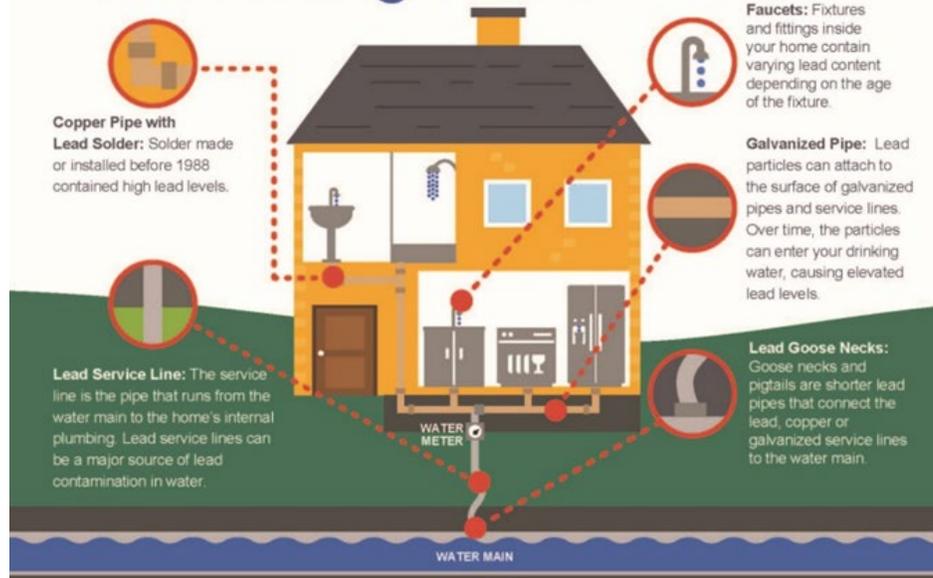
- Drinking water is one possible source of lead exposure due to the widespread use of lead in plumbing materials. Lead can also be found in certain types of pottery, pewter, food, and cosmetics.
- Lead and copper in drinking water most often comes from water distribution lines or household plumbing rather than from the water system source.
- Lead can enter drinking water when pipes, solder, home/building interior plumbing, fittings and fixtures that contain lead corrode.
- Homes built before the 1960s are more likely to have lead connections on service lines, lead pipes, fixtures, and/or solder that contain lead.
- Galvanized plumbing can be a potential source of lead. Galvanized plumbing can absorb lead from upstream sources and can continue to release lead into drinking water over time.

Some plumbing products such as service lines, pipes and fixtures may contain lead. The infographic below demonstrates where sources of lead in drinking water could be in your home. Older homes may have more lead unless the service line and/or plumbing has been replaced. Homes built...

- Before the 1960s are more likely to have lead connections on service lines, lead pipes, fixtures, and/or solder that contain lead.
- Before 1988 are likely to have fixtures and/or solder that contains lead.
- Between 1996 and 2014 are likely to have fixtures that contain up to eight percent lead but were labelled "lead-free."
- In 2014 or later still have potential lead exposure. "Lead free" was redefined to reduce lead content to a maximum of 0.25 percent lead in fixtures and fittings. Fixtures that are certified to meet NSF Standard 61 meet this more restrictive definition of "lead free."

## CONCERNED ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER?

# Sources of LEAD in Drinking Water



## Particulate Lead

Lead results can vary between tests. A single test result is not a reliable indicator of drinking water safety. Two different types of lead can be present in drinking water, soluble lead and particulate lead. Soluble lead is lead that dissolves because of a chemical reaction between water and plumbing that contains lead. Particulate lead is dislodged scale and sediment released into the water from the sides of the plumbing and can vary greatly between samples. Disturbances, such as replacing a water meter, construction and excavation activities, or home plumbing repairs can cause particulates to shake free from inside pipes and plumbing. Particulate lead is a concern because the lead content can be very high. Lead particulate could be present in a single glass of water, but not present in water sampled just before or after. During construction, frequent aerator cleanings and using a filter certified to reduce lead are recommended to reduce particulate lead exposure.

## Health Effects Information

Lead can cause serious health and development problems. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones, and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

Copper is a mineral and natural component in soils. In the correct amounts, it is an essential nutrient for humans and plants. Although copper is an important mineral, too much copper can cause health problems. The EPA Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) for copper is 1.3 mg/L. Copper is widely distributed within the tissues of the body but accumulates primarily in the liver and kidneys. Sample results for copper were below the EPA action level.