

### **Lead - Overview**

MWRA and Wilmington water does not contain lead. Lead in drinking water typically comes from having lead bearing materials in contact with water. These can include a lead service line (the pipe connecting the home to the water main in the street), leaded solder and some brass fixtures. If the water is corrosive and is left in contact with lead bearing material, lead can leach out.

As required by Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Wilmington Water Division tests for lead in multiple residential and school locations throughout Town. None of the samples from the latest round of testing (2013) were above the Action Level for lead.

- **MWRA and Wilmington water does not contain lead.** Lead may enter water as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing.
- **MWRA and Wilmington pipes carrying water are made of concrete, iron or steel and do not add lead to the water.**
- **There are no known homes in Wilmington that have lead water services**

### **How Residents can Reduce Potential Exposure to Lead**

- Always use fresh, cold, running water for drinking and cooking. Run your tap until the water is noticeably colder, especially after the water has been sitting for several hours.
- Always buy plumbing fixtures that have zero- or low-lead levels. Read the labels of any new plumbing fixtures closely.
- Be careful of places you may find lead in your home. Paint, soil, dust and some pottery may contain lead.
- Run tap water until after the water feels cold. Then fill a fresh pitcher with fresh water and place in the refrigerator for future use.
- Never use hot water from the faucet for drinking or cooking, especially when making baby formula or food for infants.

### **What steps does Wilmington take to prevent water quality incidents?**

- Wilmington staffs operators who are licensed in water distribution and water treatment
- Wilmington Water Division responds quickly to water quality complaints and records/tracks odor, taste, color issues. Trends are identified and addressed.

- Water is treated in the two Water Treatment Plants to reduce corrosivity, combat tastes, odors, and remove contaminants.
- MWRA/Wilmington test thousands of samples per year for variety of contaminants, as required by US EPA and MA DEP
- Depending on the parameter, the water may be monitored continuously, or tested multiple times per day or tested in various locations throughout the system daily, weekly, monthly or annually. Results are used by MWRA and Wilmington to assure that source water, treatment and the distribution system are operating properly, and to detect and resolve any issues.

**The best way to find out if your household tap water contains lead is to get your water tested by a lab that is DEP Certified to test household tap water for lead. DEP Certified Labs reliably test water at an affordable cost. Mail-in and drop-off options are available.**

**Visit: <http://www.mwra.com/04water/html/testinglabs.html> for a list of labs and helpful links.**