



TRAVIS COUNTY WATER CONTROL AND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT 17

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Lead and Copper Information

Because of the water issues recently discovered in Flint Michigan, the possibility of lead in District 17 water is no doubt on people's minds. Here is some information on how these contaminants are tested for and handled within our area.

All public water systems have been required to test for lead since 1992. In 1986, Congress banned the use of any solder containing more than 0.2% lead and severely restricted the use of lead in faucets, pipes, or other plumbing materials, so homes or businesses constructed after 1990 likely do not contain any lead fixtures or plumbing. District 17 does not use lead service lines. However, if lead solder is used in plumbing it is possible for lead to leach from that or even from new brass fittings.

There are two separate sets of tests conducted for lead; one test is for detecting any lead in the water actually supplied to the system, and one set is for testing inside older homes built prior to 1990 which likely have lead in their plumbing systems.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set an action level for lead at 15 parts per billion (ppb.) This means that if any home tests above 15 ppb a utility must immediately notify the resident, take more samples, and if more than 10% of high risk sites exceed the level, implement corrective action.

Please use these three links to learn more about:

[Common questions and answers put together by the Environmental Protection Agency;](#)

[District 17's last two years of Metal Test results;](#) and

See the [last set of lead tests done in older homes from 2013.](#)

Customers can also review the Lead/Copper levels of District 17 on the Annual Water Quality Report that is placed online each year after completion. Note: The Lead/Copper Action Level (AL) year of sample date will be older than the annual Reporting Year due to the reduced monitoring requirement. The 2016 test results for the 30 home systems that will be done this summer will not be used until the Annual Water Quality Report for Year 2016, released in the spring of 2017.

For questions, contact General Manager Deborah Gernes at dgermes@wcid17.org or Water Supervisor Thurman

Carlisle at ccarlisle@wcid17.org.