

Introduction to the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions

In December 2020, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR). The new rule revisions enhance previous Lead and Copper Rules, emphasizing better protecting children at schools and childcare facilities, getting the lead out of our nation's drinking water, and empowering communities through information. In addition to changes to testing and monitoring of drinking water, the LCRR requires Public Water Systems (PWSs) like Wells Branch MUD to do the following:

- Conduct a service line material inventory to determine if there are any service lines where lead is present by October 16, 2024.
 - If lead service lines are found, then a plan to replace the lines must be prepared by October 16, 2024.
- Provide testing to elementary schools and childcare facilities.

Wells Branch MUD Compliance Activities

The Wells Branch MUD is performing a lead service line inventory to determine if lead is present in the pipes from our water mainline to our water customer's home or business. The District, with the help of our utility management company (Crossroads Utility Services) and our engineers are conducting this inventory to verify the materials used in the construction of our customers' water lines. The District has over 2,700 service line connections.

We have conducted an extensive records review of the historic plumbing codes that were in effect during the construction of Wells Branch homes and businesses. That review has determined that no lead was used in our water system. Our next step is to verify this records review by physically checking a statistically significant number of pipe material in the connections throughout the District. During this process a crew from Crossroads Utility Services will clean out meter boxes to check the actual pipe materials visible in the meter boxes. They will also dig a small pothole 1-2 feet away from the meter box toward the home or building to check the pipe material on that side. These holes will be filled back in immediately.

If you have any questions, please contact us by phone (512-251-9814) or email info@wellsbranchmud.com

AWWA – Together, Let's Get the Lead Out - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PqFHrae92OM>

How Wells Branch is Keeping Lead Out of Our Customer's Water

The Wells Branch MUD benefits from extremely low levels of lead when compared to the rest of the country. Wells Branch meets all EPA standards for lead in water and continues to be well below the state and federal action levels for lead. Water Quality testing results can be viewed in our annual consumer confidence report found here ([link to CCR](#))

Sources of Lead

- **Where does lead in water come from?**
 - Wells Branch gets its treated water from the City of Austin. There is no lead in Austin's water source (Lake Austin and Lake Travis). There is also no lead in Austin's treated drinking water. However, in certain circumstances, it is possible for lead to enter water through corroding plumbing materials found in water service lines and home plumbing. Some common sources of lead can include pipes, solders, brass plumbing fixtures, faucets and pipe fittings. These lead sources are more likely to be found in homes built before 1986. In Austin, these lead sources are less common than many other major cities across the United States since Austin stopped allowing lead pipe in private construction in 1967. Since its inception the Wells Branch MUD has required construction to follow City of Austin plumbing codes, including the ban on lead pipe.
- **Lead Exposure Risk**
 - Austin Water uses a process called lime softening at its treatment plants. Over time, this process has resulted in Austin's treated water forming a protective scale on the inside of pipes that prevents the leaching out of materials such as lead.
- **Understanding Your Water Service Plumbing**
 - It is the shared responsibility of both Wells Branch and property owners to protect from lead in drinking water. While Wells Branch has few potential sources of lead, Wells Branch is taking proactive steps to identify any lead piping. Nonetheless, neither Wells Branch MUD nor Austin Water is responsible for the private piping inside your home up to your water meter.

Further Information

Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 800-426-4791 or epa.gov/safewater/lead.

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