

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

St Mary's Glacier WSD

## Did Not Install Treatment for Lead/Copper Control

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Our water system recently violated a drinking water requirement. Although this situation is not an emergency, as our customers you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely sample water at consumers' taps for lead and copper. These tests show **copper** levels in the water are above the limit, or "action level", so we are required to install corrosion control treatment. This treatment helps prevent lead and copper in the pipes from dissolving into the water. Corrosion control should have been installed by December 2, 2021, but installation is incomplete.

NOTE: This advisory is NOT related to COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has stated that the "Virus that causes COVID-19 has not been detected in drinking water." For additional information on COVID-19 and drinking water, you can refer to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's website: <https://covid19.colorado.gov>.

### Copper - What does this mean? What should I do?

- A small amount of copper is essential for good health. The Food and Drug Administration recommends a dietary allowance of 2 milligrams (mg) of copper a day. Major food sources of copper are shellfish, nuts, grains, leafy vegetables, mushrooms, chocolate, liver, and some fruits.
- The major source of copper in drinking water is corrosion of household plumbing, faucets, and water fixtures. Water absorbs copper as it leaches from plumbing materials such as pipes, fittings, and brass faucets. The amount of copper in your water depends on the types and amounts of minerals in the water, how long water stays in the pipes, the water temperature and acidity.
- Exposure to high doses of copper can cause health problems. Short-term exposure to high levels of copper can cause gastrointestinal distress. Long-term exposure and severe cases of copper poisoning can cause anemia and disrupt liver and kidney functions. While some of the copper you consume rapidly enters the bloodstream, your body is very good at preventing high levels of copper from entering the bloodstream; it will excrete excess copper after several days. Individuals with Wilson's or Menke's disease (genetic disorders resulting in abnormal copper absorption and metabolism) are at higher risk from copper exposure than the general public. If these individuals learn the amount of copper in their water exceeds the action level of 1.3 mg per liter, they should consult their medical provider.
- **How to Reduce Your Exposure to Copper in Your Water**
  - ***Copper from plumbing corrosion can accumulate overnight.*** Running cold water from the tap for about one minute can reduce copper that accumulates when household plumbing is not in use.
  - ***Always use cold water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula.*** Never cook with or drink water from the hot water tap. Never use water from the hot water tap to make formula.

### Lead - What does this mean? What should I do?

- Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. 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.

○ **How to Reduce Your Exposure to Lead in Your Water**

- **Run your water to flush out lead.** If it hasn't been used for several hours, run the cold water tap until the temperature is noticeably colder. This flushes lead-containing water from the pipes. To conserve water, remember to catch the flushed tap water for plants or some other household use (e.g. cleaning).
- **Always use cold water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula.** Never cook with or drink water from the hot water tap. Never use water from the hot water tap to make formula.
- **Do not boil water to remove lead. Boiling water will not reduce lead.**
- **Test your water for lead.** Call us at the number below to find out how to get your water tested for lead.
- **Get your child's blood tested.** Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about exposure.

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified **within 24 hours**. Typically, lead enters water supplies by leaching from lead or brass pipes and plumbing components. New lead pipes and plumbing components containing lead are no longer allowed for this reason. **However**, many older homes may contain lead pipes. Your water is more likely to contain high lead levels if water pipes in or leading to your home are made of lead or contain lead solder. Visit [epa.gov/lead](http://epa.gov/lead) for more information.

*\*Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.\**

**What is being done?**

- We have currently installed corrosion control treatment on the Alice (Well 5) side; however, the chemical treatment tends to perform inadequately when cold. Therefore, we will be installing a heater in the pump house in hopes of alleviating this issue within the next few months.
- We are requesting an extension from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment as we are unable to meet this deadline on the Winterland (Well 1) side due to construction hurdles at a higher elevation and delays in the supply chain due to COVID-19.

We anticipate resolving the problem by **August 2022**. For more information, please contact our office at [stmarysadmin@pcgi.com](mailto:stmarysadmin@pcgi.com) or 970-617- 2464, or **Pinnacle Consulting Group, 550 West Eisenhower Blvd., Loveland, CO 80537**.

*\*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.\**

This notice is being sent to you by: **St Mary's Glacier WSD - CO0110040**  
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