



Frankfort Plant Board

Lead in Drinking Water Frequently Asked Questions

The most common source of lead in drinking water is home plumbing.

Q. Should I be concerned about lead in my drinking water here in Frankfort?

A. No. The Frankfort water treatment plant adds an approved chemical, orthophosphate, to the water to reduce corrosion from metal pipes. Orthophosphate works by creating a thin but protective coating on the interior of the pipes and plumbing fixtures, preventing water from corroding the pipes.

Q. How is lead regulated by EPA and does the Frankfort Plant Board meet these regulations.

A. Lead is regulated by EPA through an Action Level that requires treatment changes if more than 10 percent of the homes test exceed 15 parts per billion (ppb) of lead in first-draw samples. FPB complies with the EPA regulation; monitoring occurs every 3 years. In fact, in 2022, no home exceeded the lead Action Level.

Q. Does that mean I do not have lead in my water?

A. Not necessarily. You might have lead in your drinking water if your home plumbing system has lead pipes or if lead solder was used in the joints of copper pipes.

Homes built before 1930 are more likely to have lead plumbing systems. Lead pipes are a dull grey color, easily scratched to reveal a shiny surface.

If your house was built before January 1986, you are more likely to have lead-soldered joints. The lead solder used to join copper pipes is a grey or silver color. If you have lead-solder joints, the chance of lead leaching into your water is higher after water has been standing in the pipes for several hours, such as overnight.

Q. How can I tell if my water contains too much lead? Can FPB's water treatment plant test the water from my home or business for lead?

A. Since you cannot see, taste or smell lead, the only way to know if you have lead in your water is to have the water tested. The FPB water treatment plant lab does not have the equipment to test for lead. There are several state-approved drinking water labs in the area that can provide that service. The KY Division of Water maintains a list of certified laboratories at:

<https://eec.ky.gov/EnvironmentalProtection/Water/GW/Documents/2022%20KY%20Certified%20DW%20Laboratory%20List.pdf>

Q. If you are concerned about exposure to lead from your home plumbing, here are some steps you can take to minimize that exposure:

- Do not use hot water from the tap for drinking or cooking purposes;
- Allow faucets to run for several minutes until the water temperature changes before consuming, especially if the water has stood in the pipes for several hours;
- If you have recently had plumbing replaced and you suspect you had lead solder, remove the faucet strainers and flush the lines for 3 to 5 minutes before using; and
- Buy only lead-free faucets and plumbing fixtures.

If you have additional questions or concerns regarding lead in your drinking water, you can contact either

Brandon Powers 502-352-4347 / bpowers@fewpb.com or

Shannon Young 502-352-4349 / syoung@fewpb.com with the Frankfort Plant Board.

Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline 800-426-4791