

Lead in Drinking Water Frequently Asked Questions

Is My Tap Water Safe?

Phoenix water is clean, high quality, and safe to drink. Public health, economic development, and quality of life here in our desert city are contingent upon a reliable and safe tap water supply. More than five million tests and measurements are conducted each year to ensure high quality tap water in Phoenix. Our water is tested for more than 100 substances, and is monitored throughout the year to ensure that it meets the rigorous standards set forth by the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#), the [Arizona Department of Environmental Quality](#), and the [Maricopa County Environmental Services Department](#).

Phoenix makes wise investments in the rehabilitation and replacement of aging water infrastructure in support of reliable water deliveries and public health. Phoenix Water is committed to ensuring clean, safe, dependable water supplies now and for generations to come.

What Is Lead?

Lead is a naturally occurring metal that is all around us. It was used for many years in paints, plumbing, and other products found in and around homes. The [U. S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) has determined that lead can cause health problems if it accumulates in a person's body over time.

How Does Lead Get Into Tap Water?

According to the EPA, lead and copper in drinking water is mainly due to the corrosion of service lines and household plumbing materials. Therefore, the purpose of lead and copper regulations is to protect public health by minimizing lead and copper levels in drinking water, primarily by reducing water corrosivity.

Does Phoenix Have Lead Service Lines?

Phoenix has been supplying water to customers for more than 100 years. While records indicate that lead service lines did exist in Phoenix's water service territory, it was standard protocol to remove lead service lines any time they were encountered or discovered by Phoenix Water Services employees. The last documented lead service line replacements took place in the early 1990s. If the city were to come across any lead service lines during maintenance and repairs, our protocol still stands to replace them.

Does the City of Phoenix have a Corrosion Control Plan?

The City of Phoenix finalized an extensive corrosion control study and used these results to craft a corrosion control protocol that was officially approved by regulators. Phoenix Water Services is careful to maintain an effective corrosion control program per federal lead and copper regulations.

Tap water monitoring for lead and copper is used to assess the effectiveness of corrosion control treatment. Per EPA regulations, 90 percent of taps tested from inside consumers' homes must not exceed a lead concentration of 15 ppb.

PHX WATER SMART

Results of Lead Sampling from Residential Water Taps		
Action Level - 90% of taps tested must not exceed 15 ppb		
YEAR *	90% of taps were less than or equal to this value	Number of sites above the Action Level
2023	4 ppb	Three (3) out of 71 taps sampled
2021	4 ppb	Three (3) out of 71 taps sampled
2020	3 ppb	Two (2) out of 61 taps sampled
2018	3 ppb	Two (2) out of 54 taps sampled
2016	5 ppb	One (1) out of 53 taps sampled
*The State of Arizona allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.		

How Do I Know If My Home Is At Risk?

In most cases, homes and buildings most likely to have lead service lines are those built before or during the mid-1950s.

The EPA defines higher-risk homes as those with:

- A lead service line connecting the water main under the street to the home's internal plumbing.
- Copper pipe and lead solder. The EPA states that homes built before 1986 are more likely to have lead pipes, fixtures and solder.

Homes that do not fall within these two categories are at lower risk for lead contamination in the water. In 1986, Congress enacted the "lead ban," which stated that public water systems, along with drinking water plumbing connected to a public system, must use "lead-free materials." As a result, homes built after the ban took place are less likely to have lead solder.

How Do I Test My Water For Lead?

Customers can contact the Arizona Department of Health Services for a list of labs certified to perform lead testing at www.azdhs.gov.

Where Can I Get More Information About My Drinking Water?

Read Phoenix Water's [annual water quality reports](#), which describe the overall quality of water from its raw collection and storage to the treated purity at your tap.