



COLUMBUS WATER WORKS' LEAD CONTROL AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

As inquiries continue about the ongoing lead issues in Flint, Michigan, there are concerns from our customers about the safety of the drinking water. In particular, questions have been raised in regards to specific water quality parameters and the potential for lead exposure. To this end, Columbus Water Works (CWW) is committed to providing you with timely and accurate information about the safety and quality of our water.

According to published news reports, there are two major factors which contributed to the crisis in Flint Michigan:

- the lack of adequate corrosion control treatment, and;
- the presence of lead service lines and partial lead service lines within the water distribution system.

It is important for our customers to know that CWW has a long history of providing sound and reliable corrosion control. As a component of our corrosion control inspection and treatment program, CWW's compliance with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) lead and copper rule has remained within regulatory limits since analysis began in 1992. Effective corrosion control is essential for good water quality and CWW samples, analyzes and adjusts the water chemistry three times more frequently than the standard practice. Additionally, CWW performs testing quarterly to measure metal corrosion rates to confirm that corrosion control is at the optimum level. Secondly, CWW does not have lead service lines. Lead service lines were more commonly used in the northern states in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The primary potential source of lead in Columbus is from old lead-based solder used in the joints of residential copper plumbing. Adequate corrosion control reduces the opportunity for this lead to leach into the water within the home.

In order to ensure that your tap water is safe to drink and use, the State and the USEPA established regulations that set limits on contaminant levels in water provided by public water systems. CWW's comprehensive water monitoring program consistently meets the USEPA compliance requirements, which ensures your water is safe for you and your family. The results of our testing have indicated that lead has not been detected in the treated water leaving the water treatment plant.

Test results for regulated contaminants that have been detected in the treated water and the level at which they were found for the preceding calendar year are published annually in our Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report), which is distributed by mail to all our customers.

A copy of this report is available on our website. [Click here to view.](#)

Additional information regarding our water quality monitoring program and general Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about water quality are also available on our website at cwwga.org. [Click here to view.](#)

More detailed 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 at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

At CWW, we focus on delivering clean, safe, reliable and high quality drinking water to our customers and we have a proven track record of providing this high level of service at reasonable rates. We consistently exceed national standards year after year, because the quality of the water we deliver to homes and businesses is of the utmost importance to us. Rest assured that we are “continuously working for you” to provide clean, safe, reliable and affordable water to our customers.