



City of Tigard Fact Sheet: Drinking Water and Lead

Water provided within the Tigard Water Service Area meets or exceeds the standards set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA).

The Tigard Public Works Department is responsible for ensuring the quality of your community water system. We provide high-quality, healthy drinking water through monitoring, planning, comprehensive designs, construction, and the operation and proper maintenance of the drinking water system.

Lead is rarely found above detectable levels in our source water, the Clackamas River. Lead service lines or gooseneck pipe connections were never used in our drinking water distribution system. The main source of lead in drinking water is typically from household plumbing. This is usually lead solder that was used in homes built or plumbed with copper pipes between 1970 and 1985.

Lead can also be found in brass plumbing fixtures and components installed prior to 2014. Components older than 1985 have potentially higher amounts of lead.

The city regularly conducts tests for lead in homes known to contain lead solder and under the worst case conditions. These test results consistently meet federal regulations. The city will also be conducting an extensive round of testing within residential homes in Tigard to meet U.S. EPA and OHA requirements. Such testing is mandatory to protect human health when a water system changes its water sources.

The Lake Oswego-Tigard Water Treatment Plant continues to treat the drinking water to make it less corrosive. The City of Lake Oswego conducted similar testing within residential homes in 2013. Findings confirmed these actions had lowered lead risks from drinking water well below levels that are considered harmful by the EPA.

Testing for Lead in Water:

- If you have a concern about your household plumbing and lead in drinking water, you can request a free lead-in-water test kit by contacting the City of Tigard at **503-718-2591**.
- Free test kits are no longer available through LeadLine.
- If you have general questions about lead poisoning, please contact LeadLine at **www.leadline.org** or **503-988-4000**.
- Washington County Health & Human Services provides public health information on lead. Find out more about lead and health at: www.co.washington.or.us/HHS/EnvironmentalHealth/HealthConcerns/lead.cfm

Here are some simple steps that can reduce your exposure to lead in drinking water:

- Run your water to flush out lead. If water hasn't been used for several hours, run the water for 30 seconds to two minutes or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before drinking or cooking.
- Use cold, fresh water for cooking and preparing baby formula. Do not use water from the hot tap to cook, drink or make baby formula. Lead dissolves more easily into hot water.
- Do not boil water to remove lead. Boiling water will not reduce lead.
- If you know your home is a higher lead risk, consider using a filter at your tap. Confirm the filter is approved to reduce lead. Always maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to protect water quality. Contact NSF International at **(800) NSF-8010** or **www.nsf.org** for information on performance standards for water filters.
- Consider buying low-lead fixtures. As of Jan. 1, 2014, all pipes, fittings and fixtures are required to contain less than 0.25 percent lead. When buying new fixtures, consumers should seek out those with the lowest lead content. Visit **www.nsf.org** to learn more about lead content in plumbing fixtures.
- Regularly clean your faucet aerator. Particles containing lead from solder or household plumbing can become trapped in your faucet aerator. Regularly cleaning every few months will remove these particles and reduce your exposure to lead.

The City of Tigard provides water to more than 60,000 individuals in the Tigard Water Service Area. This area includes the communities of the City of King City, City of Durham, two-thirds of the City of Tigard, and the unincorporated area of Bull Mountain.

For water pressure/leak problems, contact the Public Works Department at: **503-718-2591**. For utility billing questions, contact **503-718-2460**.

More information about the Tigard Water Service Area can be found online at: **www.tigard-or.gov/water**.