

Important Information About Lead in Drinking Water

At the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department (WASD), protecting public health and ensuring the safety of our community is our top priority. We want to assure customers that Miami-Dade County regulates water chemistry by adding a corrosion inhibitor to ensure lead levels remain well below the federal regulatory limit when water leaves our treatment facility. We are committed to ensuring the health and wellbeing of our community and are working closely with residents that have identified lead in their service line to take steps to ensure your water remains safe.

Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department always provides safe, high-quality water that meets or exceeds state and federal drinking water standards. We have highly trained microbiologists, chemists, and water treatment specialists who conduct or supervise more than 150,000 analyses of water samples throughout the system each year. Annual water quality reports can be found on the [WASD website](#).

Drinking water sources do not typically have naturally occurring lead. It is possible for lead to enter drinking water because of corrosion, or the wearing of pipes, or residential plumbing fixtures containing lead. This includes lead or lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass, and chrome-plated brass faucets. When present, lead service lines are typically the most significant source of lead in the water.

The likelihood of finding lead in the Miami-Dade County water system is low. Miami-Dade County prohibited the use of lead in water pipe construction in 1976, a decade before a national ban was added to the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Sources of Lead

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. Most sources result from human activities. Some of the most common sources of lead are:

- Lead-based paint
- Lead-contaminated dust or soil
- Pottery, pewter, and brass fixtures

- Plumbing materials containing lead
- Food
- Cosmetics
- Lead on clothing or shoes carried from work areas or certain hobbies
- Toys, playground equipment, and children's metal jewelry

Lead Leaching Factors

When tap water stays in contact with plumbing materials containing lead for an extended amount of time, lead has a greater opportunity to leach (leak) out of the pipe or fixture into the drinking water. This means that standing water in the pipe drawn from the tap after several hours without use, such as in the morning or later in the afternoon, may contain higher levels of lead than water that has been continuously flushed through the pipe throughout the day.

The Health Effects of Lead

It is important to be aware that exposure to lead can have health effects. For more information on the effects of lead, please visit epa.gov/lead.

For information on how to reduce exposure: [Tips to Reduce Potential Lead Exposure](#).