



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO TEST YOUR DRINKING WATER FOR LEAD?

In Missouri, high levels of lead may be found in groundwater. Although water supplied by public water systems is required to meet federal drinking water quality standards, private well owners are responsible for the safety of their own water. Therefore, it is especially important for those with private wells to test their well water to make sure that lead or other contaminants do not threaten the water supply.

In addition, any home may have lead in the water delivery system. Therefore, it is important for everyone to test their water for lead to make sure it is safe to drink.

If test results indicate the presence of lead, there are several options available to reduce your family's exposure.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

To have your water tested for lead,
inquire with your local health department,
or call

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
Health and Risk Assessment Program
573-751-6102

For more information on protecting your family
from lead, please visit:

www.dhss.mo.gov/ChildhoodLead

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Alternate forms of this publication for persons with disabilities may be obtained by contacting the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services at 573-751-6102. Hearing and speech impaired citizens telephone 1-800-735-2966. VOICE 1-800-735-2466.
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER
Services provided on a nondiscriminatory basis.

You cannot see, taste or smell
lead in the water.



**TESTING
YOUR
DRINKING
WATER FOR
LEAD**

Missouri Department of Health
and Senior Services

WHAT IS LEAD AND WHY IS IT A CONCERN?

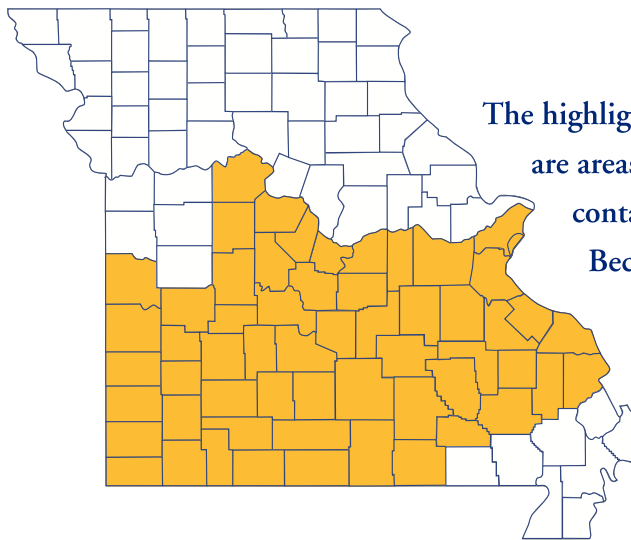
- ◆ Lead is a common metal that is found in much of the environment. People may be exposed to lead from a variety of sources.
- ◆ Lead poisoning is one of the most common and preventable environmental health problems.
- ◆ Lead has no nutritional benefits. In fact, there is no safe level of lead in the body.
- ◆ Lead can affect almost every organ and system in the body. Young children, infants, and unborn babies are most sensitive to the health effects of lead. A child's exposure to lead may result in lifelong learning disabilities or behavioral problems.



10 to 20 percent of lead exposure may come from drinking water. Infants consuming formula may receive as much as 40 to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water.

HOW DOES LEAD GET INTO DRINKING WATER?

- ◆ In certain areas of Missouri, lead contamination has been found in groundwater due to naturally occurring lead deposits and from past and present lead mining and associated operations.



The highlighted counties on the map are areas that may have lead contamination in groundwater.

Because lead occurs in these areas, water supplied by private wells may contain lead.

- ◆ Lead may also get into drinking water through corrosion of materials containing lead in the water delivery system.

Household plumbing materials, including pipes, solder, and brass components, are all parts of the water delivery system that may contain lead.

In addition to household plumbing materials:

- for those with private wells, materials used in well construction may contain lead; and
- for those on public water, water service lines may contain lead.



THE ONLY WAY TO TELL IF THERE IS LEAD IN YOUR WATER IS TO HAVE IT TESTED.