

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The City of East Helena is currently in the construction process of building a new 1-million-gallon storage tank and doing upgrades to the McClellan Creek well sites. As a result of construction, treatment of corrosion at the McClellan Creek source was stopped on September 15, 2022. Through discussions with DEQ, it has come to the city's attention that stopping this process violates current DEQ rules on corrosion treatment.

This is a treatment violation, but it does not mean there is lead or copper in your drinking water. However, it is important that we take measures to control lead and copper levels in the water.

What should I do?

- **Flush your water and inspect faucet aerators.** Run water for 15-30 seconds to flush stagnant water from interior plumbing. Flushing can be an effective method of reducing lead and copper in your drinking water. Routinely inspect, clean, or replace your faucet aerators. Aerators can collect debris which can reduce flow and decrease water quality.
- Until lead and copper results are received, it is recommended that water, juice, and formula for children under six months of age should not be prepared using tap water. Filtered or bottled water should be used.
- **DO NOT BOIL THE WATER.** Boiling, freezing, or letting water stand does not reduce the lead or copper levels. Excessive boiling can make the lead and copper more concentrated because lead and copper remain behind when the water evaporates.

Health Concerns

Copper: Copper is an essential nutrient. However, some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years may suffer liver and/or kidney damage. People with Wilson's disease should consult their personal doctor.

Lead: Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

What happened? What is being done?

The City of East Helena is working with DEQ on the installation of corrosion treatment at our Wylie Drive well source to ensure we are always producing the safest possible water to our residents and users of the East Helena Water System.

The City of East Helena continues to collect lead and copper samples in our distribution system to ensure lead and copper concentrations are below the action levels.

For more information, please contact Kevin Ore at (406) 459-3769 or P.O. Box 1170, East Helena MT, 59635.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by City of East Helena. State Water System ID#: MT0000196. Date distributed: 11/15/2022

Signed Copy sent to DEQ/PWS date: 11/15/2022