

# Learn About Lead and Copper Rule Compliance



In 1991, the EPA published the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) which aims to reduce lead and copper in drinking water. The rule applies to about **67,000 water systems** which serve over 300 million people.



Since the promulgation of the Lead and Copper Rule, the number of the nation's largest drinking water systems (i.e. those serving over 50,000) with action level exceedances has decreased **by over 90%**.

The EPA requires water systems to test for lead and copper at the tap in certain homes, primarily those with lead service lines, which are expected to have higher lead concentrations. Systems compare sample results from these homes to the EPA's action level of 0.015 mg/L (15 ppb) for lead and 1.3 mg/L (1,300 ppb) for copper. If 10 percent of the samples from these homes have water concentrations that are greater than the action level, then the system must perform actions such as public education and lead service line replacement.

To learn more about sources of lead and health effects, and ways you can help improve water quality in your home, see the EPA's [Basic Information for Lead in Drinking Water Page](#).



Also see [EPA's Sources of Lead in Drinking Water Infographic](#).

## Did You Know?

# Over 95%

of systems from across the country have not reported an action level exceedance in the last three years.



Lead is not naturally found in water. Lead from lead pipes, faucets, and fixtures can dissolve into water or sometimes can enter as flakes or small particles.

**Important Note:** Data in this factsheet is up to date as of quarter 2 of Fiscal Year 2019. Updates to this data can be found in the Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS) online federal reports. Please note, systems have different monitoring schedules, so new data may not necessarily be available annually.

## Learn More:

[See the EPA resources on the LCR](#)

[View more lead and copper compliance data](#)

EPA Office of Water  
EPA 815 F 19 007  
October 2019