



Auburn Water & Sewerage Districts

Frequently Asked Questions about Lead in Drinking Water

What was the process for selecting the homes tested?

Homes with lead solder pipe installed between 1983 and 1986 are identified using information from the City of Auburn. These are called Tier 1 sites. Homes with lead soldered pipe installed prior to 1983 can be used as well if there are not enough participants from the Tier 1 list.

How is the action level calculated?

The 90th percentile is not an average of the samples. 90th percentile is a measure used in statistics indicating the value below which 90% of observations in a group fall. In other words, 90% of the data is lower than the 90th percentile. If the 90th percentile is greater than the action level (AL) of 15 ppb, the system must: increase monitoring and inform the public. Auburn Water District has corrosion control in place and is currently reviewing the treatment process.

If my neighbor had a high level of lead, does my house need to be tested too?

Proximity to any other home is not relevant to whether you have lead in your plumbing. You can easily eliminate the worry of lead in your water by simply running the water in your faucets for a few seconds especially after the water has not been used for 6-8 hours. Run the water until it is cold and only use cold water for drinking or cooking. Corrosion occurs faster in hot water.

Besides additional testing, what is the Water District's plan?

We already have corrosion control treatment and are working with our chemical supplier to evaluate whether we should be making adjustments to our current treatment. Lewiston's water treatment is similar to Auburn's and Lewiston passed the requirements last year. Lake Auburn is not the source of lead.

Does Auburn Water District offer lead test kits for water? If so, how do I obtain one? If not, do you have any recommendations? Do you recommend that children be tested for lead above the initial infant tests?

Auburn Water District does not offer lead testing. There are private labs that offer the service, the cost is approximately \$25. For lead testing, Auburn Water District uses A&L Laboratory in Auburn, phone number 207-784-5354. There are other labs. Just ensure they are State certified for lead analysis. The biggest risk for childhood lead poisoning is through lead paint. Contact your doctor to determine whether your children should be tested.

Auburn Water District tested 44 private homes for lead and copper. All testing participants were notified of their results. No copper levels were above the maximum contaminant level goal at any of the homes. Samples are collected by a specific protocol that targets the detection of lead if present. 5 of the results were greater than 15 ppb (parts per billion). The 90th percentile is 23 ppb, this is the value on which compliance is based. The ranges were from less than 1 ppb to 71 ppb. The breakdown is as follows:

LEAD level – parts per billion (first draw sample)	# of homes with result
Less than 1	10
1	1
2	8
3	3
4	6
5	3
6	1
7	1
8	1
9	1
11	1
14	1
15	1
16	1
23	2
27	1
45	1
71	1
90 th percentile = 23 ppb	Number of sites = 44