



# Drinking Water & Lead

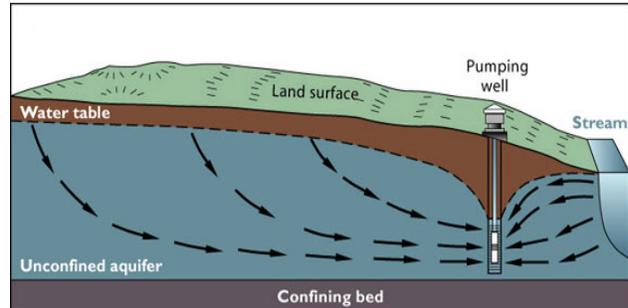
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## Our Drinking Water

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Where does our drinking water come from?

Our drinking water is drawn from 40 ground water wells throughout the City of Missoula.



Is our drinking water treated?

In an effort to provide customers with the safest possible water, we disinfect at each well with chlorine. As pursuant to ARM 17.38.229, a small amount of chlorine is added to the water to protect it from contamination as it travels through water mains and to the customer. Missoula Water does not inject fluoride or any other additives to the water.

Who distributes the drinking water?

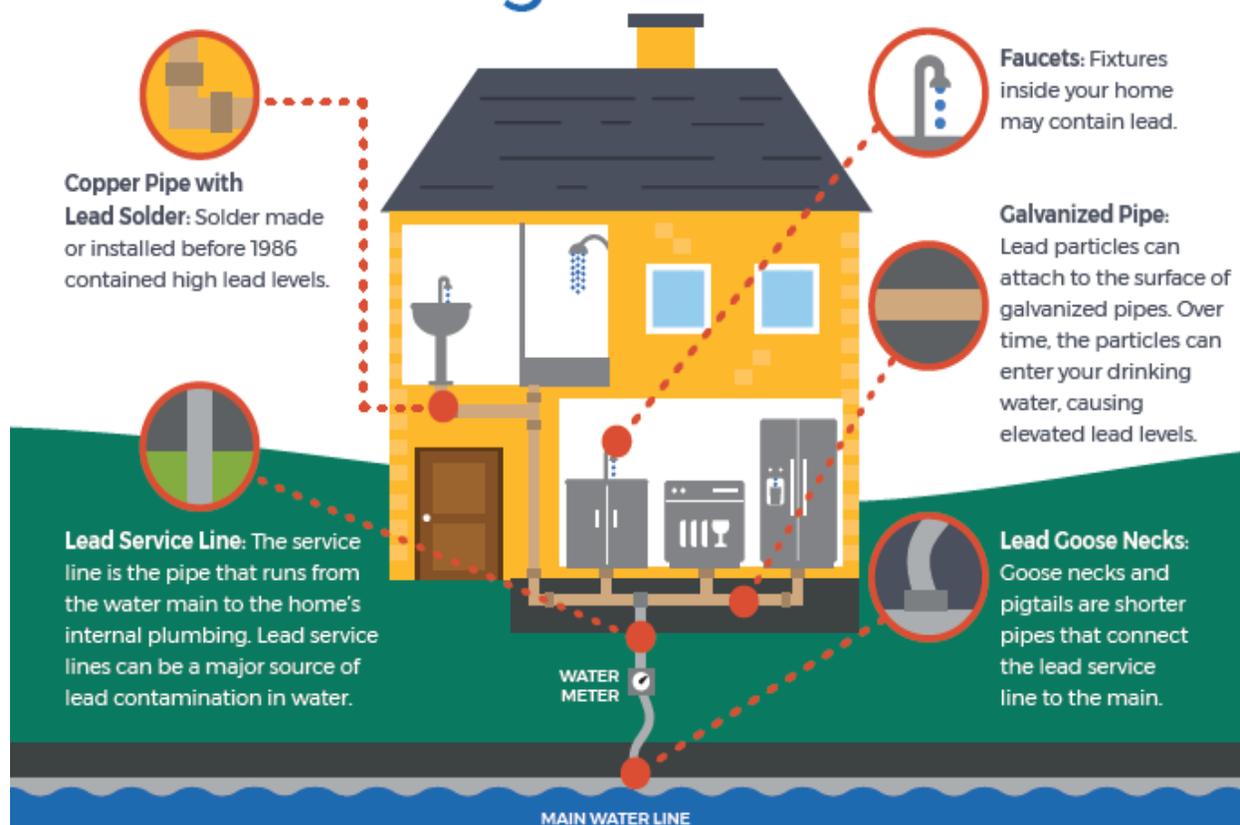
Missoula Water distributes the Water to homes and business by the use of storage tanks, booster stations and approximately 337 miles of water mains.



## Our Drinking Water

Where can lead be found?

# Sources of **LEAD** in Drinking Water



Information provided by the EPA, visit: [epa.gov/safewater](https://epa.gov/safewater)

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## Sources of Lead in Water

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### A lead service pipe

This pipe connects the water main in the street to your household plumbing. The material of water service pipes can vary and some homes still have lead service pipes. Lead service pipes were installed until the mid-1950s.



### Lead solder

Lead solder was used in plumbing prior to 1987 and connects pipes in household plumbing.



### Brass faucets, valves or fittings

Almost all faucets, valves and fittings have brass components that contain lead. Until 2014, brass faucets and fittings sold in the United States that are labeled “lead-free” can contain up to eight percent lead.



### Galvanized iron pipes

Old, corroded pipes that can potentially release lead in water if you have, or once had, a lead service pipe. Galvanized pipes were installed in many homes prior to the 1960s.



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## *Recommendations to Reduce Your Exposure to Lead*

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Use only cold water for drinking, cooking and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water.

Regularly clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator).



Consider using a water filter certified to remove lead and know when it is time to replace the filter.

Before drinking, flush your pipes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes.



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## Identify Other Lead Sources

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Lead in homes can also come from sources other than water.

- **Paint** - If you live in a home built before 1978, you may want to have your paint tested for lead.
- **Dust** - Lead in household dust results from indoor sources such as old lead paint on surfaces that are frequently in motion or bump or rub together (such as window frames), deteriorating old lead paint on any surface, home repair activities, tracking lead contaminated soil from the outdoors into the indoor environment, or even from lead dust on clothing worn at a job site.
- **Soil** - Soil may also be contaminated from past use of leaded gasoline in cars, from industrial sources, or even from contaminated sites, including former lead smelters.
- **Playgrounds** - Older playground equipment can still contain old lead-based paint, and artificial turf and playground surfaces made from shredded rubber can contain lead.
- **Yards** – Yards can become contaminated when exterior lead-based paint from houses or buildings flakes or peels and gets into the soil.
- **Various Products** - Painted toys, furniture and toy jewelry, food or liquid containers.
  - That favorite toy or rocking chair handed down in the family, antique doll furniture, or toy jewelry could contain lead-based paint or contain lead in the material it is made from.
  - Food and liquids stored or served in lead crystal or lead-glazed pottery or porcelain can become contaminated because lead can leach from these containers into the food or liquid.



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## Resources

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Local laboratories that test water for lead.

Energy Laboratory  
(406) 252-6325  
[www.energylab.com](http://www.energylab.com)

RD Water Lab  
(406) 721-8179  
[RDwaterlab@hotmail.com](mailto:RDwaterlab@hotmail.com)

The EPA has substantial amount of information on their website:  
[www.epa.gov/lead/protect-your-family-exposures-lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead/protect-your-family-exposures-lead)

Missoula Water  
Customer Service (406) 552-6700  
[watercs@ci.missoula.mt.us](mailto:watercs@ci.missoula.mt.us)  
[www.ci.missoula.mt.us/water](http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/water)