



King County Water District No. 90 FAQ Regarding Current Lead Issue

We anticipate higher than usual calls from customers due to the recent lead issues in the news. To be sure, we are consistent in our messaging; we have put together a response for the customers:

Who is responsible for the service line? Water Services generally consist of two sections; Section 1 is the pipe from the water main to the meter (the District is responsible for this) and Section 2 is the pipe between the water meter and the house (the property owner is responsible for this).

Does KCWD90 have lead goosenecks or service lines? No. The District has never used lead goosenecks between the water main and the meter. By 1920, it was well known the lead caused health problems. However, lead goosenecks were commonly used up until about 1940's. Our distribution system is relatively new, (incorporated in 1952) with the oldest parts dating back to the 50's and not pre-WWII era e.g., the pipes in question located in Tacoma and Seattle.

What is my service line made from? The District's current standard is to use copper pipe for both Section 1 and Section 2. Customers may also use plastic poly pipe from the water meter to their home. Many older homes in the District may still have galvanized pipes or copper pipes that utilized lead solder.

Does our water have lead in it? No. KCWD90 purchases 75% of our water from SPU and 25% from our own wells. Both of these sources of water are lead free.

How do you know that there is no lead? The District meets all State and Federal requirements for Lead and copper testing and our results have been well below the EPA maximum level of 15ppb. The District completed Lead and copper testing in 2013 and will be testing again in the summer of 2016. There is currently no evidence of lead contamination in our system.

If we don't have lead in our water or our service lines, why is this big deal? Lead has been completely banned in water line materials since 2010. Prior to that, a trace amount of lead was used in plumbing fixtures, solder, and galvanized pipe. The District along with SPU maintains the PH at about 8.2 - 8.4 (alkaline) so that there is no risk of any trace elements of lead being drawn into the water you drink. On the other hand, acidic water could cause trace elements for lead to become suspended in the water.

Can my house be tested for lead? The next round of testing for lead will be this summer. Does your house qualify?

1. Was your house built before 1982?
2. Do you know what your plumbing material is made from? Galvanized, copper, or plastic?
3. Has your plumbing system been replaced?

If yes, the District staff will add you to the testing group. (We need a maximum of 40 to 50 houses for testing).

What is next? The District will continue to monitor current lead alerts, testing standards, new information about lead contamination and EPA guidelines. The District will work with SPU, DOH, King County Public Health, and cities such as Tacoma and Everett to understand lead concerns regionally.

What can I do if I am concerned about lead in my system? If the customer has older plumbing and is concerned, they can run their water for a few minutes prior to drinking to flush out potential contaminants from their plumbing.

Can I get my water tested? Yes. If the customer wants to have their water tested, they can contact the following companies:

AmTest Labs
13600 NE 126th Place, Suite C
Kirkland, WA 98034
Phone: 425-885-1664
Cost: \$25.

Analytical Resources, Inc.
4611 S. 134th Place, Suite 100
Tukwila, WA 98168-3240
Phone: 206-695-6200
Cost: \$60

Testing Instructions:

- **Use a one-liter (minimum) plastic bottle (e.g. Talking Rain, Dasani, etc.).**
- **Take sample from tap that has been dormant for at least 8 hours. They recommend the kitchen faucet first thing in the morning if it has not been used. Eight dormant hours is important.**
- **Do not let the tap run first. Use the first draw from the tap.**
- **Bring the sample to the above address.**