

TOPIC:

LEAD in DRINKING WATER

Overview

Lead is a toxic metal that was used for many years in products found in and around homes. Even at low levels, lead may cause a range of health effects including behavioral problems and learning disabilities. Children are most at risk because the brain is still developing. While the primary source of exposure for most children is lead-based paint in older homes, lead in drinking water can add to that exposure. Lead is sometimes used in plumbing materials or in water service lines used to bring water from the main to the home. Major sources in drinking water are corrosion of household plumbing caused by a chemical reaction between water and the plumbing. Lead can leach into the water from pipes, solder, fixtures, faucets (brass) and fittings.

Impacts on Our Water

Homes may have internal plumbing materials containing lead. Since you cannot see, taste, or smell lead dissolved in water, testing is the only way to know if there are harmful quantities of lead in your drinking water. A list of certified laboratories is available from your state or local drinking water authority.

More Information

<http://marionhealth.org/>

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Household plumbing may involve lead-containing components



EPA's guide to different sources within a home