

NEWS RELEASE EXAMPLE

Water Testing Program Seeks Volunteers

Water System Name is seeking volunteers for a statewide lead and copper water testing program.

They are asking owners of single family homes to provide samples to enable them to ensure compliance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act of 1986.

Water System Name does not anticipate a lead or copper contamination problem in the area, but state and federal laws require the testing.

In order to meet guidelines, homes involved in the testing program must have copper pipes that are joined with lead solder. The most preferable sites are in homes built in 1983 or after. Homes built before that may also qualify if not enough homes with lead solder are found. Also, samples may not be taken at homes that have water softeners or filters. Samples must be collected from the cold water tap of the kitchen or bathroom sink, and the water must sit motionless in the pipes for at least six hours.

Water System Name is asking customers to take the sample for them *or*

Water System Name would like to send a representative to collect the samples when it is convenient for the homeowner. The testing will begin soon.

Lead is a common metal found in many paints, air, soil, dust, food and water. According to representatives of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, lead can pose a significant health risk if too much enters the body. It can cause damage to the brain, red blood cells and kidneys. It is particularly harmful to the developing brain and nervous system of fetuses and young children (below 6 years of age).

Lead in drinking water, although rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning can increase a person's total lead exposure. It is estimated that, nationwide, water contributes less than 20% of lead exposure.

Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion of household plumbing materials, including lead based solder used to join copper pipes, brass and chrome plated faucets and in some cases, pipes made of lead that connect houses to the water main. **Water System Name does/does not** have any lead service lines.

Copper is not a health threat to most people, but there are some who have genetic disorders that make them sensitive to even small amounts. The purpose of testing for copper is that it is an indicator of water corrosivity.

If you are interested in participating in the program, please call **Water System Phone Number**.

BILL STUFFER EXAMPLE

**Federal/State – Mandated Lead Testing Starts Soon
Volunteers Needed!!**

Water System Name will soon begin a program to test for lead and copper in drinking water.

We need volunteers who will allow samples to be taken in their homes. We are looking for single family homes that meet the following criteria:

- Houses with copper water pipes with lead solder (homes built after 1982 are preferred)
- Homes built in 1982 or before may be accepted
- Houses that do not have water softeners or filters
- Samples must be collected from the cold water tap of the kitchen or bathroom
- Water must sit motionless for at least 6 hours immediately prior to sampling

The test results will be provided to the customer upon request.

If you are interested in helping us with this program, please complete this form and return it to us or give us a call at **Water System Phone Number**.

**LEAD/COPPER SAMPLING & TESTING PROGRAM
PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Best time to contact you: _____

Year home built: _____

Softener/Filter: Yes No

Copper pipes w/ lead solder: Yes Not sure (we will try to determine)

Sorry, my house does not qualify for one of the stated reasons.

Send to:

Water System Name
Water System Address