



## What causes lead to be in your water?

Lead is a metal known as a “legacy” contaminant, meaning that it has been with us for a long time. Lead has been used in many products over the years, for example, Lead pipes, leaded gas, and paint. Even though these examples have been outlawed, our exposure to Lead continues because it remains in the environment.

There is literally no safe level of Lead in drinking water. The severe health consequences of Lead exposure are greatest for children because their bodies and minds are developing, but adult exposure is also very harmful.

Lead exists in water in two forms: soluble (dissolved Lead) and insoluble (Lead particles).

For this reason, more than one type of treatment may be needed to remove it.

Effective treatments:

- Reverse Osmosis (soluble and insoluble)
- Ion Exchange (softeners) (soluble Lead)
- Particulate filtration (insoluble Lead)

Lead in drinking water is most often associated with plumbing materials such as Lead service lines, Lead solder, high Lead brass fixtures, and deposits in pipes which have been built up over the years. There are numerous regulations regarding the Lead content in drinking water applications. Because of legacy plumbing, Lead water contamination continues to be a very serious problem.



### Sources:

Training doc send my mark “Basic water chemistry Rev 2020”  
<https://resourcecenter.kinetico.com/solution-center/importance-of-water-testing/>