



## District of Wells

The District of Wells is reaching out to residents to provide you with the knowledge to make informed decisions about water quality in your home or business.

Below are tips to assist you in reducing potential health effects from home-sourced lead in drinking water.

### Is my drinking water safe?

The District of Wells treats and regularly tests its water to ensure it is safe to drink. Nevertheless, there are sources of contaminants that may be present in individual homes in the District of Wells, resulting from historic use of plumbing fixtures containing lead.

Lead has been limited or banned from new plumbing fixtures, but if your plumbing was installed or replaced prior to 2013, you may be increased at risk of exposure. If you do live in a home where plumbing materials containing lead may still be in place, there are some simple steps you can take to reduce or eliminate your risk.

### What are the potential risks?

Extended exposure to elevated levels of lead can impair cognitive function. Infants, children, and pregnant women are most susceptible to these effects. Refer to Health Link BC online for more details, at [www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthlinkbc-files/lead-drinking-water](http://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthlinkbc-files/lead-drinking-water).

### How can I find out for sure if I'm affected?

As a naturally occurring substance, lead can be found in trace amounts in all water. You can obtain a home-based test to determine whether the lead present in your drinking water is high enough to warrant concern. More information on testing and sampling can be found on the [Northern Health website](#).

### How can I reduce lead in my water?

1. Run your tap water cold before serving, especially in instances where water has been sitting in the pipes for long periods of time. When the water runs noticeably cold, you are receiving a fresh source of water from beyond the building. Avoid using hot tap water for drinks and cooking.
2. Replace the pipes and/or older brass fixtures containing lead in your home or business. This can be an expensive option but will eliminate your risk of lead exposure through drinking water. Look for a CSA logo verifying low lead content on any plumbing materials:
3. Install lead-removing filters on your drinking water taps. These are available through your local hardware store. Filters should state that they are certified to NSF/ANSI Standard 53 or 58 for lead reduction.

The District of Wells works hard to ensure the safety and high standards of drinking water. More information can be found on our website at [www.wells.ca](http://www.wells.ca) or by calling 250-994-3330.

Questions for Northern Health's Environmental Health team can be directed to [php@northernhealth.ca](mailto:php@northernhealth.ca)

[https://www.northernhealth.ca/sites/northern\\_health/files/services/environmental-health/documents/northern-health-bulletin-lead.pdf](https://www.northernhealth.ca/sites/northern_health/files/services/environmental-health/documents/northern-health-bulletin-lead.pdf)