

News from the Source

LCA Customer Newsletter - SUBURBAN DIVISION

Información importante de su compañía de agua.

LCA Water Supply Meets Health Standards for Lead Exposure

Lehigh County Authority's primary concern is providing our customers with high-quality, affordable water.

However, concerns have been raised recently about the safety of LCA's water following national media coverage about the risk of lead exposure from tap water and other sources. One news report showed that children in Allentown have the highest levels of lead in their blood as compared to children in 17 other Pennsylvania cities.

Health officials have explained that lead exposure in Allentown is due primarily to lead-based paint used in homes constructed more than 30 years ago.

While LCA's water quality has not been shown to contribute significantly to the high lead exposure among children in Allentown, it is important for customers to be aware of the risks.

Drinking water can contribute to lead exposure as water passes through lead pipes, brass plumbing fixtures and other plumbing that contains lead solder.

To mitigate these risks, LCA takes important steps to ensure the safety of our tap water.

Water testing

One of the things we do is routine monitoring. Our most recent tests show that LCA's water meets all federal and state health standards for acceptable levels of lead exposure, and we're planning another round of tests from July through September. Results will be posted in the fall.

In addition, at its water treatment plant in Allentown as well as at other water supply sites throughout the service

Please see *Standards*, Page 2

Your Water Quality Report is Available

Each year, Lehigh County Authority provides its customers with a Water Quality Report to let them know how our water quality stacks up against established federal and state drinking water standards. We encourage you to review this report as it provides details about the source and quality of the drinking water delivered to your community in 2015.

In an effort to be more environmentally responsible, we have made the reports available online. Please use the guide on the back of this newsletter to find your report on our website. If you wish to have a paper copy, you can print one directly from the website. You can also receive a copy by contacting us at 610-398-1444.

Attention landlords, businesses, schools and other groups! Please share this information with tenants, students and other water users at your location who are not billed customers of Lehigh County Authority.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre se agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Please see *Report*, Page 2

Contacting LCA:

Online: www.lehighcountyauthority.org

Phone: 610-398-1444

Visit: 1053 Spruce Road

Wescosville, PA 18106

Mail: PO Box 3210

Allentown, PA 18106

Email: service@lehighcountyauthority.org

Hours: 8:15 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. weekdays

Report, from Page 1**If you live or work here:**

Mill Creek Acres in Washington or Heidelberg Twp

Schnecksville / Neffs area in North Whitehall Twp.

Villages of Slatedale or Emerald
and along Welshtown Road in Washington Twp.

Beverly Hills development in Lower Milford Twp.

Heidelberg Heights development in Heidelberg Twp.

Mink Estates, Far View Farms in Upper Milford Twp.

Buss Acres, Deer Run in Upper Milford Twp.

Areas immediately outlying the Borough of Emmaus
in Upper Milford, Salisbury & Lower Macungie Twp.
(Note: on the front of this bill, your water service is noted
as "EMMAUS CON")

Pine Lakes at Lynn development in Lynn Twp.

Madison Park North development in Lynn Twp.

Clearview Farm Estates development in Moore Twp.

Arcadia West/West Hills business parks; Northwestern
Lehigh Elementary School in Weisenberg Twp.

Anywhere else in Lehigh County (this includes portions
of Upper and Lower Macungie, Salisbury, South Whitehall,
Upper Milford and Lowhill twps. Note: on the front of this
bill, your water service is noted as "CENTRAL LEH.")

Visit us online here to view your report:

www.lehighcountyauthority.org/wp-content/uploads/MCD.pdf

www.lehighcountyauthority.org/wp-content/uploads/NWD.pdf

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www.lehighcountyauthority.org/wp-content/uploads/UMD.pdf

www.lehighcountyauthority.org/wp-content/uploads/UMCD.pdf

www.lehighcountyauthority.org/wp-content/uploads/ECD.pdf

www.lehighcountyauthority.org/wp-content/uploads/PLD.pdf

www.lehighcountyauthority.org/wp-content/uploads/MND.pdf

www.lehighcountyauthority.org/wp-content/uploads/CFD.pdf

www.lehighcountyauthority.org/wp-content/uploads/AWD.pdf

www.lehighcountyauthority.org/wp-content/uploads/CLD.pdf

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area, LCA treats its water with small doses of sodium hydroxide to slightly adjust the pH of the water, which further prevents corrosion of lead and copper from plumbing fixtures into the drinking water.

An important aspect of LCA's water supply is the natural "hardness" of the water. Hard water is found throughout Lehigh County and contains high levels of naturally occurring – and healthful – minerals such as calcium and magnesium. These minerals are often the source of complaints from customers who dislike the white residue that can build up on plumbing fixtures. However, calcium deposits inside plumbing provide great protection against lead exposure because the coating inside of the pipes can prevent direct exposure of the water to the pipe lining. Some customers do face a higher risk of lead exposure depending on the plumbing materials in their home — like brass fixtures and lead solder.

Some customers who have water softeners installed may be adjusting the chemistry of their own tap water, which, if the home has any lead in its plumbing, can result in different levels of lead leaching.

**Older homes**

Additionally, some homes built more than 40 years ago may have their water delivered through a lead service line.

While LCA replaces its portion of lead service lines routinely during water main replacement projects and other work in older communities, homeowners are responsible for replacing service lines and any internal plumbing fixtures. None of LCA's approximately 600 miles of water mains are made of lead.

LCA encourages all customers to become informed about the risk of exposure to lead for their children.

If you are worried about lead in your lines, you can install a water filter (at your own cost) that services your entire house, or install individual filters on your faucets.

You can also have your water tested, at your own cost, to see if it contains lead. There are a number of licensed plumbers in the region who can perform this service.

Customers with questions about lead in their drinking water are encouraged to contact LCA.