



Canadian Water Quality Association
L'Association canadien pour la qualité de l'eau
E- Bulletin

Date: 8th June 2007

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To: All Members, and Prospects

Subject: Lead Issues- Work with the public and the municipal and provincial authorities.

Toronto, ON... Due to the recent increase in inquiries regarding lead in our drinking water from the public and our members, CWQA is posting this notice to all our members for use with their concerned customers, their staff and the public in general. If there is a concern of lead in the drinking water, these are the suggested steps to take...

1. If there is a customer concern regarding lead, have the home owner contact the local public health office or the municipality and have their water sampled. Ontario's local Public Health Units has specific protocols and sampling procedures for this type of investigation.
2. When the chemical results come back reporting an elevated concentration of lead in the drinking water, allow the public health officials to complete their investigation and monitoring to identify the source of the lead contamination.
3. It is inevitable that the public will eventually come to water treatment professionals to address the lead in their drinking water if the concern persists.
4. If a homeowner comes to you with concerns about lead and has identified the source via a PHU investigation, several technologies that treat drinking water in the home at its point-of-use or the point-of-entry have been proven to significantly reduce lead including reverse osmosis, distillation, cation exchange water softening, and solid block and pre-coat adsorption filters.
5. Know what levels of lead you are dealing with. Water can be tested by the local health units, the municipality, the MOE or an accredited laboratory. Use the lab certificate and results to gauge the concern. As well as the concentrations of other chemicals in the sample water.
6. When the water is tested that the source of lead contamination is found outside the home, a cation exchange water softener can reduce the level of ionic lead. For insoluble lead particles, this method is less effective and a softener in concert with an alternative device can be utilized including solid block and pre-coat adsorption filters, distillation, or reverse osmosis. Remember that lead is a drinking water issue.
7. If the lead is entering the system from household plumbing, consumers can consider point-of-use alternatives such as reverse osmosis, distillation or solid block or pre-coated adsorption filter at a primary drinking water source such as at the kitchen sink.

Check all manufacturers' literature, certification under CSA, NSF and WQA, and maintenance specifications. Lead rarely occurs naturally in water. Lead contamination can enter the drinking water supply at any point in the water delivery system and commonly occurs through leaching from old lead service connections, pipes or lead solder in copper pipes in older homes and communities.

Formed in 1960, CWQA stands as a unified voice for the Point-of-Use/Point-of-Entry (POU/POE) water quality improvement industry. The industry served by the Canadian Water Quality Association and its members encompass water quality improvement for homes, businesses, industry and institutions.

END

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