



New Treatment to Address Lead in Water

Starting June 1st, the Washington Aqueduct will be adding zinc orthophosphate to the water it sells to WASA for distribution to our customers. Zinc orthophosphate helps stabilize water quality to minimize deposits and the corrosion that results in leaching of lead from service lines and plumbing fixtures in homes. The use of zinc orthophosphates meets Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations on lead and copper. This initial step will demonstrate the effectiveness of this additive in the Northwest section of the city that is bordered roughly by Western Avenue, Utah Avenue, Morrison Street, Reno Road, Massachusetts Avenue and Wisconsin Avenue. The program will be introduced throughout the rest of the District in mid- to late summer.

Zinc orthophosphate-based additives are classified as "corrosion inhibitors." This means that they react with pipe surface metals to form a microscopic film on the surface of the pipe that is exposed to water. This film helps stop or slow pipe corrosion, which caused the elevated lead levels in some District homes.

The zinc orthophosphate additives will inhibit corrosion of any pipe material, but temporarily may cause area water to turn reddish-brown, as the chemical can cause rust and sediment in water mains to move through the water supply system. The discoloration is only temporary and will pass.

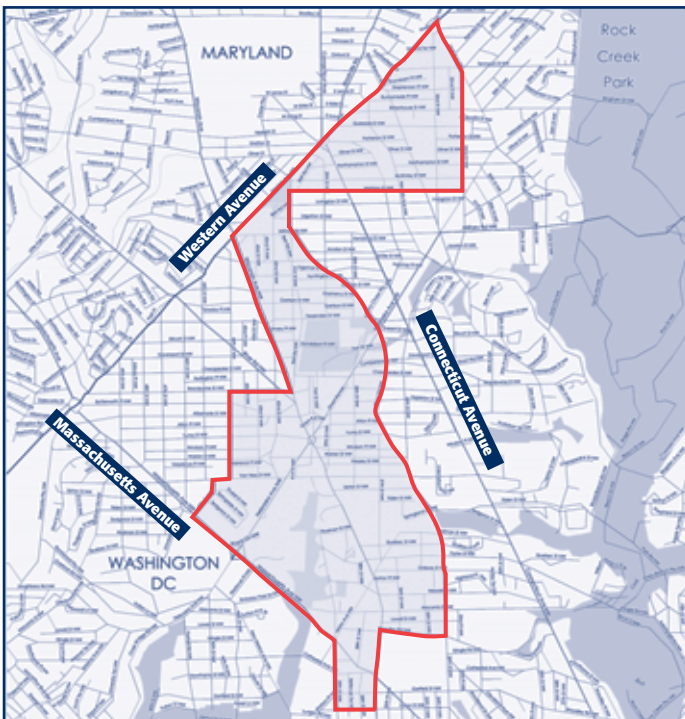
However, if your water is discolored, please do NOT drink the water or cook with it; do NOT wash laundry as it may discolor clothing; and do NOT use your hot water or rust could settle in your hot water heater. Instead, FIRST run the cold water until your water runs clear from all faucets, then follow WASA's Water Use Tips (see reverse side).

"This additive will easily adapt to our current water quality program," said Michael Marcotte, Deputy General Manager/Chief Engineer at WASA. "The Washington Aqueduct is using only a small (3 mg/L) dosage in the drinking water treatment process, and we will be conducting field tests to monitor the dosage being applied to the water supply."

Zinc orthophosphate corrosion inhibitors have become the product of choice for many utilities throughout the United States. These products have consistently proven to be a very effective corrosion-controlling agent. For protecting tanks, pumps and most pipeline materials,

zinc orthophosphates repeatedly outperform other inhibitors in most applications.

If you are interested in learning more about the lead services program, we encourage you to contact the Lead Services Hotline at **202-787-2732** or e-mail us at **wqp2003@dcwasa.com**.



Starting June 1st, zinc orthophosphate will be added to the water supply within the red outline shown in Northwest DC.

Wise Water Use Tips

WASA customers **with lead service lines** should flush their lines for 10 minutes before using the water to drink or cook, if the water has not been used for six to eight hours. Customers who **do not have lead service lines**, but are concerned about lead or live in houses built prior to 1986, should flush their faucets for 60 to 90 seconds before using the water to drink or cook, if the faucet has not been used for six hours or more. To follow this advice—but continue to use water wisely—here are some tips:

- After flushing, collect and store tap water in clean containers and place in the refrigerator so you have plenty of drinking water ready for use.
- As part of a morning, 10-minute flushing routine, run a full washing machine or dishwasher, water the lawn or wash a car.
- Use water during flushing to hand-wash pots and pans. This water can also be used to wash hands or for shaving.
- Have two residents each take a five-minute shower.
- Save flushed water to soak dirty pots and pans or dirty laundry that needs extra attention. Or use this water to water plants or bathe pets.

Report Emergencies 24 Hours A Day!

Use our hotline number to report improper use of hydrants, catch basins that have become clogged with leaves, water main leaks or suspected sewer backups.

24-Hour Emergency Hotline: 202-612-3400



Neighborhood Fire Hydrant Painting

This summer, DC communities will begin neighborhood beautification and refurbishing projects. Many communities ask WASA if they can restore and paint local fire hydrants. WASA will gladly authorize the painting of fire hydrants, provided: 1) the community uses approved paint, which will be provided by WASA, and 2) no paint gets on the sidewalk. To learn more or receive authorization, contact Keith Givens, Community Relations Coordinator, at 202-787-2202.

WASA Recognized for Maintenance Training and Certification Program

WASA has been awarded the American Academy of Environmental Engineers Grand Award for its first-in-the-nation maintenance training and certification program for the water and wastewater industry. WASA developed this landmark program to allow maintenance professionals to gain national recognition in their field, and increased ownership of their work. Since certifying 170 maintenance professionals, WASA has realized significant cost savings by reducing the need to hire outside maintenance contractors by more than 50 percent. By training and certifying maintenance personnel internally, WASA has ensured a skilled, efficient and productive workforce for its customers.

For more information, visit WASA's website at www.dcwasa.com.

Para leer este folleto en Español, por favor visite nuestra página Web www.dcwasa.com.

District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority
Customer Service Department
810 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002
Customer Service: 202-354-3600
24-Hour Emergencies: 202-612-3400
www.dcwasa.com

