



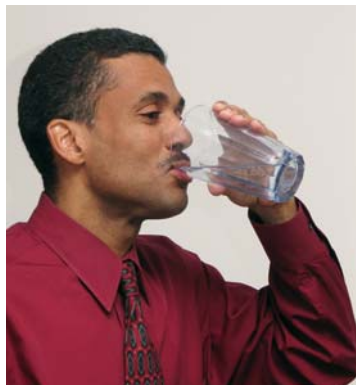
What's on Tap

News for Customers of the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (WASA)

February 2006

District drinking water meets federal requirements for lead levels

WASA has announced that results from tests done over the last 12 months of lead in residential tap water show the District's drinking water meets the federal requirements under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Lead and Copper Rule (LCR). In the latest round of sampling from more than 100 locations around the city, 92 percent were at or below the fed-



eral action level of 15 parts per billion. The lead level decline over the past year has been a

positive trend confirmed by test results from two EPA-required, six-month compliance-testing cycles. These findings have marked WASA's success in meeting the provision of the LCR.

WASA will continue its commitment to go beyond current regulatory requirements with aggressive monitoring, distribution system flushing, and lead pipe replacement programs.

WASA purchases drinking water from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Washington Aqueduct for distribution to District customers. The decline in lead levels has largely been attributed to the addition in 2004, by the Aqueduct, of orthophosphate to the treatment process to reduce the corrosive nature of water on lead pipes and plumbing fixtures that contain lead.

Questions and Answers about District drinking water

Is the water safe to drink?

Yes. The water has always met health standards under the federal *Safe Drinking Water Act*. During periods of elevated lead levels, blood screening tests of 6,800 District residents showed no identifiable health impact.

Can I get my water tested for lead?

Yes. Once a year, WASA will provide a free lead test sample kit upon request for customers with a lead service line or a line of unknown material.

Will WASA continue to replace lead service lines? When?

Yes. WASA is replacing all public lead service lines

in the District at a rate of 3,000 to 4,000 lines annually.

WASA encourages homeowners to replace the portion of the lead service line on their property, as well as any plumbing fixtures in the home that contain lead. Customers can call WASA's Lead Hotline at (202) 787-2732 to find out if they have a lead service line. To see when lead line replacement is scheduled for their neighborhood this year, customers can check WASA's

website (www.dcwasa.com) or call the Lead Hotline.



Do I still need to use a water filter? No. Water filter use is an individual choice. However, we strongly advise that,

if filters are used, they should be changed regularly as directed by the manufacturer.

To enhance the overall quality of drinking water, run cold water from the faucet for at least 60 seconds before using, and use only cold

water for drinking and cooking.

What does the "action level" mean? The federal *Safe Drinking Water Act* uses 15 parts per billion (ppb) as an indicator to trigger utilities to improve corrosion control. The action level is not a health standard.

What if a water sample test is above the action level? Following the flushing recommendation is sufficient to reduce any potential exposure to lead in drinking water.

For more information on drinking water quality call Customer Service at (202) 354-3600 or visit www.dcwasa.com



Even if you didn't get a flu vaccination this

year, the good habits listed below can help keep you and your Valentine healthy by preventing the spread of the flu virus:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- If possible, stay home from work, school, and from running errands when you are sick.

You will help prevent others from catching your illness.

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash your hands often to help protect against the spread of germs.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.

Germs are spread when a person touches something contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose, or mouth.

For more information about preventing the flu, visit www.cdc.gov.

Paying your bill couldn't be easier

As a WASA customer, you already know you can pay your bill through the mail. But did you also know there are three more ways you can make your monthly payment—on the Internet, at your local Wachovia Bank, or at the WASA Business Office. Feel free to take advantage of the method that is most convenient to you.

- 1. My Account.** Register for My Account at www.dcwasa.com where you can pay your monthly bill or set up automatic bill payment.
- 2. Pay by Phone.** Call (202) 354-3600 to pay this month's bill by phone. The payment will post to your account within 2 business days
- 3. A Local Wachovia Bank.** You may also bring your cash, check or money order for the



amount due, to any Wachovia branch office in the District of Columbia. *Please note, you cannot pay a bill on or after the due date at the bank.*

- 3. WASA Business Office.** You may bring a check or money order directly to one of our business offices at 810 First Street, NE, and the Penn-Branch Municipal Service Center.

Selling your home? Be sure to tell WASA

If you are selling your home in the District, WASA needs to know so that we may formally close your account. On completion of your real estate transaction, be sure to ask your WASA title company to provide WASA with the following information:

- Name and address of seller
- Date service should be stopped
- Date your house was sold
- Your new address (where to send your final bill)

Buyer's contact information (name, phone number and date to activate service) This information should be sent to WASA Customer Service at 810 First Street, NE; Washington, DC 20002.

If you have questions about closing your account, call Customer Service at (202) 354-3600.



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

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

Report Emergencies 24 Hours a day!

To report improper use of hydrants, clogged catch basins, water main leaks, or suspected sewer backups, call (202) 612-3400.

To reach WASA's Lead Services Hotline, call (202) 787-2732.



District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority

Customer Service Department
810 First Street, NE
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(202) 354-3600
www.dcwasa.com