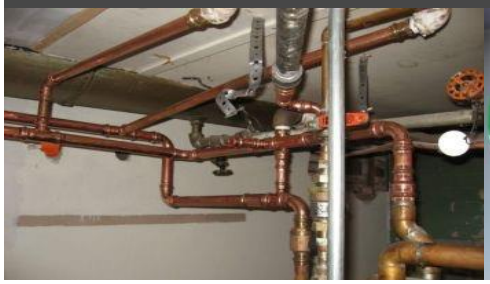
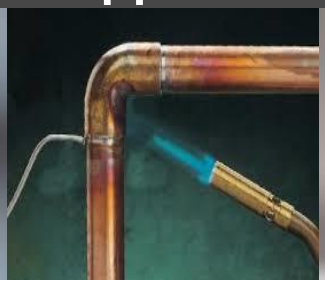
LEAD & COPPER

FACTs About Lead and Copper in Drinking Water




Summary of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Lead and Copper Rule

Lead and copper enter drinking water primarily through plumbing materials. Exposure to excessive amounts of lead and copper may cause health problems ranging from stomach distress to brain damage. On June 7, 1991, EPA published a regulation to control lead and copper in drinking water. This regulation is known as the Lead and Copper Rule (also referred to as the LCR or 1991 Rule). The treatment technique for the rule requires systems to monitor drinking water at customer taps. If lead concentrations exceed an action level of 15 ppb (parts per billion), or copper concentrations exceed an action level of 1.3 ppm in more than 10% of customer taps sampled, the system must undertake a number of additional actions to control corrosion. If the action level for lead is exceeded, the system must also inform the public about steps they should take to protect their health and may have to replace lead service lines under their control. For complete information and updates to the LCR, visit the USEPA's website. http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/rulesregs/sdwa/lcr/lcrmr_index.cfm

Information on how the City of Azle tests for lead and copper can be located by following this link to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's website.

https://www.tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/chemicals/lead_copper/lead-copper.html

Azle's Commitment to Water Treatment Quality, Testing, and Results.

As required by the TCEQ, the City of Azle conducts lead and copper testing from 30 locations every three years. This sampling schedule was initiated by the TCEQ because we have never exceeded an action level for either contaminant. In fact, sample results for the past 15 years have shown that water treatment techniques used by the Azle Water Treatment Plant (AWTP), along with routine distribution system maintenance, have proven effective in suppressing contaminants.

The AWTP carefully monitors and adjusts the pH of the water entering the distribution system in order to maintain a water quality that prevents excessive levels of lead and copper from escaping plumbing fixtures in your home. However, if you are concerned about these issues, a good practice is to allow the water faucets in your home to flush for a few minutes after the fixtures have been unused for eight hours; for example, if a bathroom facet is only used in the morning, run the facet for a few minutes before it is used the next morning. Furthermore, there are relatively inexpensive commercially available filters that remove metals and minerals from drinking water.

If you would like more information regarding this subject or other water related topics, please contact the Azle Water Treatment Plant at 817-752-2686.