

Bordentown Water Department – Lead Action Level Exceedance

The Bordentown Water Department is required to perform periodic testing of the water supply for levels of lead and copper at designated homes in the Bordentown water system. The July to December 2018 sampling round found **10 of 73 homes** had results above the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP) action level.

The action level for lead is 15 parts per billion (ppb) at the 90th percentile of samples. This is equivalent to one drop in ten completely full bathtubs. **Bordentown's 90th percentile was 28 ppb.**

Is Bordentown delivering contaminated water to its customers?

Some of the samples contained no detectable levels of lead, thereby demonstrating that positive samples were most likely from residential plumbing.

The main source of lead comes from interior plumbing, specifically lead soldered copper piping. Water in contact with these lead joints for long periods of time can accumulate lead levels exceeding the action level.

Testing procedures are designed to mirror a worst-case scenario, dictating that water stand for a minimum of 6 hours before collecting the sample with no pre-flushing before the hold time. Flushing the tap for 15-30 seconds before drinking eliminates the majority of lead concentration from the water. Our customers can request a flushed sample if they are still concerned with lead concentrations after flushing.

The highest risk customers are those with either lead service lines or lead soldered copper piping installed between 1982 and 1987. These are the customers that are prioritized in our sampling.

What is Bordentown doing to protect our customers?

A revised Lead & Copper sampling plan was submitted to NJDEP last year, including a re-evaluation of the sample pool to capture all high-risk customers. Sampling frequency has been increased to 60 samples every 6 months and will remain at this frequency until Bordentown has had two consecutive sampling periods without a Lead Action Level exceedance.

Bordentown Water Department has performed a corrosion control treatment study to identify treatment techniques to better protect our customers. The results of this study have been shared with NJDEP and Bordentown has received Temporary Treatment approval to install Klenphos 400 (zinc pyrophosphate sequestering agent plus orthophosphate as an approved corrosion control treatment. This approved treatment process was fully implemented in November 2018 and levels are being monitored for effectiveness.

A public meeting was held on January 29, 2019. Follow up meetings will be scheduled to discuss the lead action level exceedance and the steps moving forward. Further information can be found on the City of Bordentown website: www.cityofbordentown.com/lead-testing-information

The Water Department has begun excavating services at and around the homes that are experiencing action level exceedances to confirm the type of materials used for the service lines from the water main to the curb and the curb to the home. At this time no lead service lines have been found at the excavation sites. Further excavations will be completed as the weather permits.

The EPA has published additional information to help consumers learn more about lead exposure. <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>

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