

## **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 November/December 2017 sampling round found 16 of 68 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 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of samples. This is equivalent to one drop in ten completely full bathtubs. Bordentown's 90<sup>th</sup> percentile was 30 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 new and revised Lead & Copper sampling plan was submitted to NJDEP this year, including a re-evaluation of our sample pool to capture all high-risk customers in our regular sampling. Sampling frequency will be increased to 60 samples every 6 months until the system can achieve 12 months without an action level exceedance.

Bordentown Water Department is performing a corrosion control treatment study to identify possible treatments to better protect our high-risk customers. The results of this study will be shared with NJDEP and an optimal corrosion control treatment will be recommended and approved.

A public meeting will be scheduled soon to discuss the recent action level exceedance and the steps moving forward.

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>