

DRINKING WATER WARNING

Town of Ridgway

Sampling Shows Elevated Lead Levels in Some Homes and/or Buildings

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Our water system recently exceeded the lead action level of 0.015 mg/L (15 parts per billion) based on sampling for lead in drinking water from homes and/or buildings. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

If you are a member of our sampling site pool, a notice of the lab results was personally delivered to you. These results are specific to your home/building and may be different from the results taken in other locations.

What is an Action Level?

The lead action level is a measure of the effectiveness of the corrosion control treatment in water systems. The action level is not a standard for establishing a safe level of lead in a home. To check if corrosion control is working, EPA requires water systems to test for lead at the tap in certain homes, including those with lead service lines. Systems compare sample results from homes to EPA's action level of 0.015 mg/L (15 ppb). If 10 percent of the samples from these homes have water concentrations that are greater than the action level, then the system must perform actions such as public education, adjusting treatment, and lead service line replacement.

What Happened?

As required by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Water Quality Control Division (WQCD), in June 2025 we collected 20 samples and analyzed them for lead. The Town relies on various property owners, as required by WQCD, to assist with sampling efforts. The results of more than 10 percent of our samples exceeded the action level for lead. Our 90th percentile compliance value was 15.8 ppb, just above the 15 ppb lead action level.

We are focused on protecting the health of every household in our community. It's worth noting that lead from service lines and lead plumbing and fixtures are potential sources of lead in drinking water. Lead from service lines and lead plumbing and fixtures can dissolve or break off into water and end up at the faucet. This does not mean that every property that receives drinking water from us has lead in the drinking water. It does mean that you should understand how to reduce your exposure to lead through water. Keep in mind that drinking water is not the only potential source of lead exposure, since lead can be found in air, soil, and paint. For more information on all sources of lead, visit <https://www.epa.gov/lead>.

Health Effects of Lead

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women

who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems.

Steps You Can Take to Reduce Your Exposure to Lead in Your Water

Below are recommended actions that you may take, separately or in combination, if you are concerned about lead in your drinking water. The list also includes where you may find more information and is not intended to be a complete list or to imply that all actions equally reduce lead from drinking water.

- **Use cold water.** Do not use hot water from the tap for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula as lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Boiling water does not remove lead from water.
- **Run your water.** The more time water has been sitting in your home's pipes, the more lead it may contain. Before drinking, flush your home's pipes by running the tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or doing a load of dishes. The amount of time to run the water will depend on whether your home has a lead service line or not, as well as the length and diameter of the service line and the amount of plumbing in your home.
- **Clean your aerator.** Regularly remove and clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator). Sediment, debris, and lead particles can collect in your aerator. If lead particles are caught in the aerator, lead can get into your water.
- **Use a filter properly.** Using a filter can reduce lead in drinking water. If you use a filter, it should be certified to remove lead. Read any directions provided with the filter to learn how to properly install, maintain, and use your cartridge and when to replace it. Using the cartridge after it has expired can make it less effective at removing lead. Do not run hot water through the filter. For more information on facts and advice on home water filtration systems, visit EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/home-drinking-water-filtration-fact-sheet> and EPA's Consumer Tool for Identifying Drinking Water Filters Certified to Reduce Lead.
- **Learn what your service line material is.** We completed a lead service line inventory last year and determined all service lines are constructed with non-lead materials (e.g. copper or plastic). If you have specific concerns about the accuracy of our service line inventory, please contact us at 970-318-0081 or consult with a licensed plumber to inspect your service line.
- **Have your water tested.** Contact us at 970-318-0081 to learn about how to have your water tested for a cost and to learn more about the lead levels in your drinking water.

Get Your Child Tested to Determine Lead Levels in His or Her Blood.

A family doctor or pediatrician can perform a blood test for lead and provide information about the health effects of lead. State, city, or county departments of health can also provide information about how you can have your child's blood tested for lead. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that public health actions be initiated when the level of lead in a child's blood is 3.5 micrograms per deciliter (µg/dL) or more. For more information and links to CDC's website, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>.

What is Being Done?

The Town is working closely with WQCD to complete the required public noticing and treatment adjustment requirements as a result of this action level exceedance. The Town will conduct additional sampling to confirm that there is not a system-wide issue that led to this action level exceedance.

In addition to the information mentioned above that we will provide to residents at locations we sampled, we will also be following up with additional public education to all our customers by August 31, 2025.

We are working to determine which corrosion control treatment strategy would be most effective in addressing this situation. The Town will work closely with WQCD representatives to implement any decided strategies by the required timeframe for implementation.

We anticipate resolving the problem by December 31, 2025. For more information, please contact Preston Neill at **PNEILL@TOWN.RIDGWAY.CO.US** or **970-318-0081**, or **PO BOX 10 Ridgway, CO 81432**.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by: Ridgway Town Of - CO0146676
Date distributed: July 18, 2025