

Lead and Copper Rule

What is the Lead and Copper Rule?

Lead and copper enter drinking water primarily through plumbing materials. Exposure to lead and copper may cause health problems ranging from stomach distress to brain damage.



In 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). Since 1991 the LCR has undergone various revisions, see the Rule History section below.

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 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.

While the LCR rule applies to water utilities, the [Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act](#) sets standards for:

- pipe
- plumbing fittings
- fixtures
- solder
- flux



What does the City of Venice do?

Every three years, as required by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the city must perform Lead and Copper testing. This testing is done with the help of concerned citizens whose plumbing meets the criteria listed below. The testing is usually done in June or July, is very easy to do, and cost you absolutely nothing. The City has a current list of sample points but is looking for new volunteers to take the place of residents who have had their plumbing replaced and no longer qualify.

What can I do?

The City of Venice is looking for single family structures, or buildings and multiple-family residences that contain

- ❖ lead pipes
- ❖ copper pipes with lead solder installed after 1982
- ❖ pipes served by lead services or single family structures that contain copper pipes with lead solder installed before 1983

If your residence falls within these parameters and you are interesting in being added to our list, please notify the Utilities Department at (941) 480-3333 so we can add your address to the list of selected homes.

The **Lead and Copper Rule** can be found in the Code of Federal Regulations. [40 CFR Part 141 Subpart I](#)

Overview of the Rule

Title: **Lead and Copper Rule** (LCR), 56FR 26460 – 265464, June 7, 1991

Purpose: Protect public health by minimizing lead (Pb) and copper (Cu) levels in drinking water, primarily by reducing water corrosivity. Pb and Cu enter drinking water mainly from corrosion of Pb and Cu containing plumbing materials.

Utilities Covered: All community water system are subject to the LCR requirements.