

Good to the Last Drop!

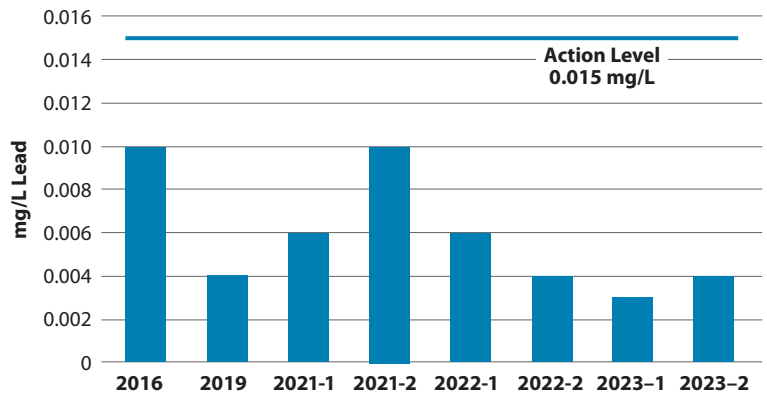
Since the early 2000's, the District has qualified for reduced lead and copper monitoring. Samples have historically been collected from 30 homes and two schools/childcare facilities in town once every three years to confirm the effectiveness of our corrosion control efforts. Aeration, primarily used for VOC removal, is often sufficient in raising the pH of our naturally corrosive water supplies from slightly acidic to neutral. As needed, further upward pH adjustment is achieved by adding potassium hydroxide. Upwardly adjusting the pH reduces the potential for metals like lead and copper to leach from building pipes and plumbing fixtures into the water carried through them.

Because several system improvements were initiated in 2020, including breaking ground on the recently constructed Central Acton Water Treatment Plant, reactivating the Assabet 2 Well, and activating the Assabet 3 Well, the District returned to semi-annual lead and copper monitoring at 60 homes and two schools/childcare facilities beginning in 2021. We anticipate semi-annual monitoring will continue through 2025 and beyond as the District pursues additional water quality and capacity improvements, including the construction of PFAS treatment at the South and Central Acton WTPs and the construction of two bedrock wells in Acton Center.

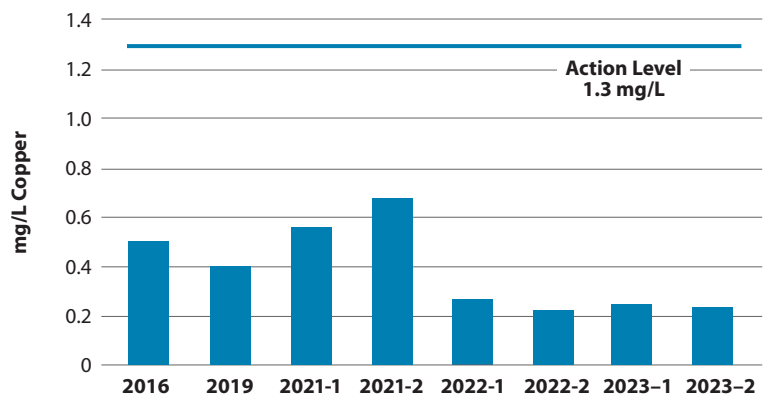
Lead levels in more than 97% of the residential samples collected in 2023 were below the Action Level (AL). All AL exceedances were reported to homeowners immediately and follow-up sampling was offered; when conducted, repeat sampling indicated low lead levels. Often, replacing old household plumbing fixtures that contained lead results in improved water quality. There were no lead AL exceedances for any of the samples collected in schools/ childcare facilities as part of the 2023 program.

When your water has been sitting for several hours, like first thing in the morning or upon returning home from work, you can minimize your lead exposure by flushing your tap for up to two minutes or until the water becomes noticeably colder before using it for drinking, cooking, or preparing baby formula. Always use cold water for these activities, as lead dissolves faster in hot water than it does in cold. It's also important to note that boiling water does not decrease the level of lead; rather, it increases it. Additionally, the aerators on the end of your faucets should be removed at least every six months to rinse out any debris that may include particulate lead.

Lead Levels



Copper Levels



Lead and copper compliance data demonstrate effective corrosion control practices at our treatment plants, which reduce leaching of metals from building pipes and plumbing fixtures.

Do You Want to Get Involved?

The Board of Water Commissioners meetings are typically scheduled on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7:00 pm; meetings are open to the public. The beginning of each meeting is set aside for public comments that may not be on the agenda for discussion. If you wish to attend, please visit our website (<https://actonwater.com/meeting-schedules>) to confirm the next meeting date. The Acton Water District Annual Meeting is held on the third Wednesday of March. All interested persons are welcome to attend.

For more information, additional copies, or to comment on this report, please contact:

Acton Water District

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