

HELP GET THE LEAD OUT!



Pollutant of Concern: Lead

What is lead?

Lead (symbol Pb) is a soft, silvery to gray metal and is the heaviest non-radioactive natural chemical element.

What are Common Sources of Lead? Lead is used in building construction, car batteries; ceramic glazes; coating of electrical cords; fishing sinkers; shielding; organ pipes; electrodes; solder for electronics; high voltage power cables; oil-based paints; roofing material, cladding, flashings, gutters; statues; semiconductors; photovoltaic cells; wheel balances, bullets, weights, home plumbing, etc. Gas and paint (pre 1978) used to be leaded, and some of that remains in the environment especially in soils contaminated by particulate accumulation.

What's the Problem?

- ◆ When ingested, lead is poisonous as it can damage the nervous system and cause brain problems and blood disorders. It accumulates as a neurotoxin and can cause cognitive deficiencies in children, and also affect adults. Lead poisoning can occur by means of inhalation, swallowing or skin contact.
- ◆ The good news is that the results for lead testing in the City's drinking water supplies is either non-detect or typically well below Maximum Contaminant Levels. Also, Bend's water (both surface and ground) is not caustic, which means that it does not corrode the old piping that contains lead (and copper).
- ◆ Of 38 analytes tested in Central Oregon as part of stormwater monitoring, lead is the pollutant we find most often at higher levels in stormwater runoff (exceeded Underground Injection Control screening levels 7.7% of time). Therefore it is useful to consider ways to further reduce it.

What can you do as a Bend resident?

Owners of Buildings Constructed Prior to 1978

- If your paint is peeling or you are remodeling, be sure to use a lead-certified contractor, and test your paint for lead.
- According to the state, "Contractors that disturb painted surfaces in homes, child care facilities and schools built before 1978 must hold a special license and follow work practices that prevent lead contamination. Common renovation activities that disturb lead-based paint, such as sanding, cutting, and replacing windows, can create hazardous lead dust and chips." Visit <http://www.oregon.gov/CCB/homeowner/Pages/lead-paint.aspx> to learn more, and find a list of contractors certified to handle lead.
- Home repairs that create even a small amount of lead dust can be poisonous. Follow EPA's guidance for home renovation do-it-yourselfers: <http://www2.epa.gov/lead/renovation-repair-and-painting-program-do-it-yourselfers>



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What Can You Do as a Bend Resident? (continued)

All

- Lead can still be in soil as a result of atmospheric deposition of past gasoline use or paint chips/dust from paints applied before 1978. Cleaning sediments up will help keep lead cleaned up. Excess sediment in streets or storm drains is considered an illicit discharge. If you spot excess sediment in the roadway or sediment that could potential reach stormwater facilities, contact City of Bend at 541-317-3000.
- Follow the best management practices in the City's Sediment Fact Sheet to help keep lead out of stormwater.
- Check the common sources of lead, above, and see if you use any of these items. If so, consider alternatives.
- In home plumbing may contain lead. Since each home has different plumbing pipes and materials, test results are likely to be different for each home. Every three years the City collects 30 samples from residences in the City's distribution system that have been determined to have this type of plumbing. The results of this testing (which goes back to 1993) shows that lead is far below the maximum contamination level and the City of Bend does not have to treat our water to control corrosion. However, if you want to test your own water should your home have lead pipes, or your non-plastic plumbing was installed before 1986, then copy and paste this link into your web browser for more details:
<http://www2.epa.gov/lead/protect-your-family#homeleadsafe>.
- Properly dispose of any lead at Knott Landfill's Household Hazardous Waste Events.

Other Resources

USEPA Lead Webpage: <http://www2.epa.gov/lead>

Oregon Home Builder's Associations Lead Paint Training Courses Information
<http://oregonhba.com/lead-based-paint-training-refresher-course-oregon/>

Oregon Construction Contractor's Board list of certified lead paint contractors in Deschutes County
http://search.ccb.state.or.us/search/lead_safe_list.asp?code=9

Knott Landfill Household Hazardous Waste Events
<http://www.deschutes.org/solidwaste/page/hazardous-waste-collection>

City of Bend Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report)
<http://www.bend.or.us/index.aspx?page=205>



Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities

To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille, large print, electronic formats and audio cassette tape please contact Karen Morris at 541-693-2141 or email kmorris@bendoregon.gov.



UTILITY DEPARTMENT