



The City of Bremerton is pleased to serve you. For more information, please visit [www.BremertonWA.gov](http://www.BremertonWA.gov) or call the City of Bremerton Customer Response Line (360) 473-5920, the Kitsap Public Health District (360) 728-2235, Washington State Department of Health (360) 236-3030, or the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791.

## Fact Sheet: Lead and Drinking Water

### “Should I be concerned about lead in my water?”

#### **Your Drinking Water Quality**

The City of Bremerton ensures the quality of your drinking water by proper operation of our water system and regular testing of water supplies. The City has been providing clean, safe water to our customers since 1917. The quality of Bremerton’s tap water is excellent.

#### **Is there lead in Bremerton’s water supply?**

Water sources in Bremerton do not contain detectable levels of lead. There is no lead in the water delivered to your home or business. There are no known lead service lines in Bremerton’s water system. Occasionally we encounter lead goosenecks – a short piece of pipe that connects the service line to the main – these have mostly been removed over the years.

#### **Then where can lead come from?**

Lead can enter the water through a reaction between the water and certain types of plumbing such as copper pipes with lead solder, lead goosenecks found on service lines at some pre-1940s homes, and brass plumbing fixtures.

Lead plumbing products have been restricted in Washington State since 1988 to contain less than 8% lead. Regulations that went into effect in January 2014 have further restricted lead in water pipes, products, and fixtures to less than 0.25%.

If you have an older home with galvanized pipes then you do not have lead products in your home plumbing. Galvanized pipes are silver in color, whereas copper pipes have an orange cast.

A small number of homes, mainly in West Bremerton, built earlier than the late 1940’s with the main in the street also older than the late 1940s have the possibility of a lead gooseneck (about 16” long) connecting the service to the water main. Please see the information in the last paragraph below and visit [www.BremertonWA.gov/PbGN](http://www.BremertonWA.gov/PbGN) for more information.

#### **How is the City of Bremerton protecting the public’s health from lead?**

In March 1999, the City installed a treatment system which reduces the corrosive nature of the water by adjusting the pH of the water as it enters the water distribution system. Regular sampling in the distribution system and at homes throughout the system confirms that this treatment is effective.

If you still have concerns, the following information from EPA may be helpful:

*Anytime the water in a particular faucet has not been used for six hours or longer, “flush” your cold water pipes by running the water about 2 minutes until it becomes cold as it will get. Use only water from the cold water tap for drinking and cooking since hot water is likely to contain higher levels of metals. Lead in household water usually comes from the plumbing in your house, not from the local water supply.*