

Lead Action Level Exceedance Notice

DRINKING WATER WARNING

Sampling shows elevated lead levels in 3 homes.

The Grand Portage Public Water System found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in **THREE of the homes/buildings tested**, which requires a Public Notice. If the Grand Portage Public Water System tested your home or building, you should receive or may have already received these results. **These results are specific to the home/building and DO NOT INDICATE LEAD LEVELS IN THE REST OF THE SYSTEM.** 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.

What is an Action Level?

The lead action level narrative from EPA's Lead and Copper Rule provides guidelines for when water systems must act to protect public health.

EPA's action level is 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 provide public notice, and perform actions such as public education (ongoing), adjusting treatment (continuing), and lead service line replacement (there are no lead service lines in Grand Portage).

What Happened?

Between July 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025 we collected 20 water samples and analyzed them for lead. Three (3) of these samples were above EPA's action level.

The Grand Portage Public Water System has conducted a thorough service line inventory and found that there are **NO KNOWN LEAD SERVICE LINES IN GRAND PORTAGE.** We found that lead in the internal plumbing of the home is likely the source of lead in these 3 homes.

You should still understand how to reduce your exposure to lead, keeping in mind that lead is not the only potential source of 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 your 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](#).
- **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 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. Residents may contact us at [218-475-2020](tel:218-475-2020) for recommendations about flushing times in their community.
- **Learn what your service line material is.** Contact us at [218-475-2020](tel:218-475-2020) or a licensed plumber to determine if the pipe that connects your home to the water main (called a service line) is made from lead, galvanized, or other materials. [Protect Your Tap: A quick check for lead](#) is EPA's on-line step by step guide to learn how to find lead pipes in your home.
- **Learn about construction in your neighborhood.** Contact us at [218-475-2020](tel:218-475-2020) to find out about any construction or maintenance work that could disturb your service line. Construction may cause more lead to be released from a lead service line if present.
- **Have your water tested.** Contact us at [218-475-2020](tel:218-475-2020) to have your water tested 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 ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$) 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?

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.

The Grand Portage Public Water System is has been working with MAP, IHS and EPA to ensure that the water chemistry at the treatment plant is balanced, which minimizes pipe and plumbing components from corroding and leading to the possibility of lead dissolving into water. This process is known as corrosion control.

The Grand Portage Public Water System has also conducted a thorough service line inventory with MAP and IHS, and determined that any lead in drinking water is not coming from within the Public Water System.

We also plan to take the following steps:

- We are conducting additional lead and/or water quality monitoring of our water system supply.
- We are increasing our public education to help residents remove lead sources from inside the home

For more information, please contact **Vallen Cook** at **218-475-2020** General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk from lead in drinking water are available from EPA's website <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>.

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 **The Grand Portage Public Water System**.

Public Water System (PWS) ID#: 05294101

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