

Failure to Recommend Corrosion Control Notice

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Grand Portage Water Contains High Levels of Lead and Copper

Our water system recently violated a drinking water requirement. Even though this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did (are doing) to correct this situation.

We routinely sample water at consumers' taps for lead and copper. The tests show lead and copper levels in the water above the limit, or "action level," so we were required to conduct additional monitoring and submit a source water recommendation and an optimal corrosion control treatment recommendation by June 30, 2026. This treatment recommendation helps determine what action should be taken to help identify the source of the lead and copper and help prevent lead and copper in the pipes from dissolving into the water. We did not complete these recommendations ahead of the June 30, 2026 deadline.

What should I do?

Listed below are some steps you can take to reduce your exposure to lead:

- Call us at the number below to find out how to get your water tested for lead or copper.
- Find out whether your pipes contain lead or lead solder or copper or copper solder.
- Run your water for 15-30 seconds or until it becomes cold before using it for drinking or cooking. This flushes any standing lead and copper from the pipes.
- Don't cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead and copper dissolve more easily into hot water.
- Do not boil your water to remove lead or copper. Boiling water makes the lead and copper more concentrated – the lead remains when the water evaporates.

What does this mean?

Typically, lead and copper enters water supplies by leaching from lead, copper, or brass pipes and plumbing components. New lead and copper pipes and plumbing components containing lead or copper are no longer allowed for this reason. However, many older homes may contain lead or copper pipes. Your water is more likely to contain high lead or copper levels if water pipes in or leading to your home are made of lead or copper or contain lead or copper solder.

Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal physician.

What is being done?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours. We have completed the source water treatment recommendation and have submitted them to EPA on August 31, 2026.

For more information, please contact Vallen Cook at (218) 475-2020 or vallen.cook@grandportage.gov.

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 Grand Portage Public Water System. Water System ID#: 5294101.

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