



CHAMPLAIN WATER DISTRICT

Dedicated to Quality Water & Service



First In The Nation ~ Excellence In Water Treatment, Partnership For Safe Water

PRESS RELEASE

Champlain Water District (CWD)

Contact: Jim Fay, CWD General Manager

Phone: (802) 864-7454 ext. 103

jim.fay@champlainwater.org

UPDATE ON LEAD & COPPER HOME SAMPLING

June 2, 2016

As news coverage continues on lead in Flint, Michigan's drinking water, CWD is supplying information on its treatment approach for water corrosivity. CWD serves the following twelve water systems in the suburbs of Chittenden County; South Burlington, Shelburne, Williston, Essex Town, Essex Junction, Milton, Village of Jericho, Winooski, Colchester Fire District #1, Colchester Fire District #3, Colchester Town and the Malletts Bay Water Company. The municipal owners of these twelve water systems have not identified the existence of lead service lines serving customer homes. CWD began researching water corrosivity/corrosion control in 1985, and began adding a corrosion inhibitor to the finished water in 1987. Through the 1990's, CWD optimized the corrosion inhibitor to prevent the potential for lead leaching from customer home plumbing. In customer home plumbing, the major source of lead is 50/50 lead tin solder used to connect copper pipes. Also customer's brass sink fixtures have a percentage of lead in the brass material. In 1987 Vermont passed the lead ban act that drastically reduced the amount of lead in both solder and brass. The source of lead for CWD served systems is not a lead service line from the water main in the street only the plumbing materials within the home. Per federal requirements CWD takes "high risk" lead and copper samples at homes built between 1982 and 1987 that would have the higher risk plumbing solder and higher lead brass fixtures. As CWD begins another three year sampling cycle the District will follow the "Suggested Directions for Homeowner Tap Sample Collection Procedures – Revised Version: February 2016." Since 2004, in between these three year sampling cycles, CWD continues to operate a laboratory based "simulated home plumbing" testing system to ensure that CWD's optimized corrosion control stays fine-tuned throughout the seasonal changes here in Chittenden County.

Please see CWD's website for additional information. www.champlainwater.org