

## Lead Action Level Exceedance Notice – Boots and Saddles 662

### DRINKING WATER WARNING

#### Sampling shows elevated lead levels in some homes.

**Thurston PUD** found elevated levels of lead in some homes of the **Boots and Saddles 662** drinking water 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. If your home was part of the 2024 sampling your results are attached to this notice.

#### What is an Action Level?

The lead action level is a measure of the effectiveness of the corrosion control treatment in water systems. The action level is not a standard for establishing a safe level of lead in a home. To check if corrosion control is working, EPA requires water systems to test for lead at the tap in certain homes, including those with lead service lines. Systems compare sample results from homes to EPA's action level of 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 perform actions such as public education, adjusting treatment, and lead service line replacement.

#### What Happened?

In **September 2024**, we collected **5** samples and analyzed them for lead. The results of more than 10 percent of our samples exceeded the action level for lead.

**Thurston PUD** is focused on protecting the health of every household in our community; however, lead in drinking water most often comes from water distribution lines or household plumbing rather than from the water system source. **There are no known sources of lead in the distribution system.** Plumbing sources can include lead pipes, lead solder, faucets, valves, and other components made of brass. This does not mean that every property that receives drinking water from **Boots and Saddles 662** has lead in the drinking water. It does mean that you should understand how to reduce your exposure to lead through water. Keep in mind that drinking water is not the only potential source of lead 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.\**

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## 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. No alternate water supply is needed, but customers should review the recommendations listed below to reduce lead exposure:

- **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](#).
- **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. You should flush your lines until you feel a temperature change.
- **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.
- **Thurston PUD just completed a Lead Service Line Inventory for your water system. No lead service lines were found. You may want to double check our records and learn what your service line material is.** [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.
- **Have your water tested.** Contact us at [866-357-8783 option 3](tel:866-357-8783) or [PUDPlanning@thurstonpud.org](mailto:PUDPlanning@thurstonpud.org) 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>.

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## What is Being Done?

The actions that we are taking are following **Federal and State lead and copper regulations**.

We are required to develop and implement a program to minimize how corrosive our water is to help reduce the levels of lead in customer's taps.

In order to do this, we are required to:

- 1) Conduct a public education program.
- 2) Prepare an engineering report to evaluate our water to determine what our next steps should be and what type of treatment might work best.

We may be required to:

- 3) Install corrosion control treatment (treating the water to make it less likely that lead will dissolve into the water) or

We also plan to take the following steps:

- Thurston PUD staff are conducting additional lead and/or water quality monitoring of our water system supply.
- We are increasing our lead monitoring to determine the extent of the situation.
- We are working with the Washington State Department of Health engineers to determine our next steps. We will provide a better timeline soon, and we expect to complete the due diligence and engineering by January 30, 2025.

For more information, please contact **Thurston PUD** at **866-357-8783** or **PUDCustomerService@thurstonpud.org**. 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 **Thurston PUD for the Boots and Saddles 662** Water System (PWS) ID#: 07730. Date distributed: 10-25-2024

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