

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Village of Ashkum Water Contains High Levels of Copper

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. 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 are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely sample water at consumers' taps for copper. The tests show copper levels in the water above the limit, or action level, so we are required to install corrosion control treatment. This treatment helps prevent copper in the pipes from dissolving into the water. Corrosion control should have been installed by July 26th, 2024 but installation is incomplete.

What should I do?

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

- Call us at the number below to find out how to get your water tested for copper.
- Find out whether your pipes contain 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 copper from the pipes.
- Don't cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; copper dissolves more easily into hot water.
- **Do not boil your water to remove copper.** Excessive boiling water makes the copper more concentrated the copper remains when the water evaporates.

What does this mean?

Typically, copper enters public water supplies by leaching from copper or brass pipes and plumbing components. Your water is more likely to contain high copper levels if water pipes in or leading to your home are made of copper or contain copper solder.

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.

These symptoms, however, are not caused only by organisms in drinking water, but also by other factors. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.

What happened? What is being done?

The Village is putting an Optimized Corrosion Control Treatment and Source Water Treatment recommendation together. It will be sent to IEPA long with water samples in hopes of correcting our high levels of copper.

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Corrosion control will be in place by January 1, 2027.

For more information, please contact Derek Miller at 815 370-4414 or derekmiller2120@gmail.com

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 Village of Ashkum.

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