**[Information on Lead](https://eec.ky.gov/Environmental-Protection/Water/Drinking/Pages/information-for-consumers.aspx" \l "ctl00_ctl00_m_g_55960873_590f_4058_8e58_832774b0a5b0_ctl02_AccordionList_ctrl1_Collapse)**

Lead can enter drinking water when service pipes that contain lead corrode, especially where the water has high acidity or low mineral content that corrodes pipes and fixtures. The most common problem is with brass or chrome-plated brass faucets and fixtures with lead solder, from which significant amounts of lead can enter into the water, especially hot water.

Homes built before 1986 are more likely to have lead pipes, fixtures and solder. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) has reduced the maximum allowable lead content -- that is, content that is considered "lead-free" -- to be a weighted average of 0.25 percent calculated across the wetted surfaces of pipes, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings, and fixtures and 0.2 percent for solder and flux.

Corrosion is a dissolving or wearing away of metal caused by a chemical reaction between water and your plumbing. A number of factors are involved in the extent to which lead enters the water, including:

* the chemistry of the water (acidity and alkalinity) and the types and amounts of minerals in the water,
* the amount of lead it comes into contact with,
* the temperature of the water,
* the amount of wear in the pipes,
* how long the water stays in pipes, and
* the presence of protective scales or coatings inside the plumbing materials.

To address corrosion of lead and copper into drinking water, EPA issued the [Lead and Copper Rule](https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/lead-and-copper-rule) (LCR) under the authority of the SDWA. One requirement of the LCR is corrosion control treatment to prevent lead and copper from contaminating drinking water. Corrosion control treatment means utilities must make drinking water less corrosive to the materials it comes into contact with on its way to consumers' taps.

* [Learn more about the maximum allowable content of lead in pipes, solder, fittings and fixtures](https://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations/use-lead-free-pipes-fittings-fixtures-solder-and-flux-drinking-water)
* [Learn more about EPA's regulations to prevent lead in drinking water](https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water#regs)
* [Learn how to identify lead-free certification marks on drinking water systems and plumbing products](https://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPDF.cgi?Dockey=P100LVYK.txt)
* [Avoiding Lead Contamination in Public Drinking Water in Kentucky](https://eec.ky.gov/Environmental-Protection/Water/Drinking/Documents/Avoiding%20Lead%20Contamination%20in%20Water%20in%20Kentucky%202-9-16.pdf) [139 KB]