



City of Ashton
P.O. Box 689
Ashton, ID 83420
(208)652-3987

Dear Water User,

For over the last twenty years the City of Ashton has worked to improve the quality and reliability of water service. The latest water project was completed in 2013 which included a water treatment facility to remove nitrates and 13,000 feet of replaced pipe. The City water system is being faced with a new challenge ahead and we are reaching out for your help.

The City of Ashton's public water system follows rules provided by our state and federal government. In 1974, the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) was passed to protect drinking water. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets the standards for drinking water quality and monitors states and local authorities who enforce the standards. In 1986, the US Congress amended the SDWA by prohibiting the use of pipes, solder, or flux (solder & flux are used to join pipes to each other) in public water systems or plumbing in facilities providing water for human consumption. In 1991, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) to minimize lead and copper in drinking water. Thirty years later, the EPA published Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) to further protect children and communities from lead exposure. The EPA published the LCRR on January 15, 2021, formally approving it in December 2021. The revisions improve the Lead and Copper Rule to eliminate lead contamination in drinking water and increase public health protection by reducing lead exposure.

In the City's efforts to comply with the LCRR, the City has been working on an inventory of the shared lines. Water lines installed prior to the laws eliminating lead in water pipes in 1986 are being located and evaluated. We will share more information as we continue to inventory and evaluate the shared lines.

The LCRR also requires that the City of Ashton inventory the service lines at each property. The service line is the water line from the water meter to each home or business. The property owner is responsible for service line maintenance however during this inventory project ALL LINES within the water system must have the material used identified and inventoried. This is where we will need each water user's help.

In the next few weeks, the City will be sending out a simple questionnaire. The questions will ask what each water user knows about their service line such as what date it was put in or replaced and the materials used. The water user will also be provided with a lead test kit that can be used if they do not know what material was used for the service line. After completing the questionnaire and the test (if needed), **customers can return them by June 30th to the office to receive a \$20 credit to their City utility bill.**

On July 1st, the City public works department will be contacting those users who do not complete the questionnaire. They will be working with those users to obtain the needed information for the inventory.

The City of Ashton is committed to operating and maintaining a quality water supply system. Below are several websites that provide further information regarding this project. We thank you in advance for your assistance in completing the inventory in accordance with the requirements from the EPA.

Thank you,

Tom Mattingly
Mayor

EPA Ground and Drinking Water Webpage:

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-your-home>

EPA Lead and Copper Rule:

<https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/lead-and-copper-rule>

EPA Revised Lead and Copper Rule:

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/revised-lead-and-copper-rule>

EPA Lead and Copper Rule Improvements page:

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/lead-and-copper-rule-improvements>

Understanding the EPA Lead and Copper Rule:

https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2019-10/documents/lcr101_factsheet_10.9.19.final_.2.pdf