

The quality of water is a very important topic to discuss. Water is a necessity to all living creatures, without water, we could not survive. Which is why it is important to have clean, safe drinking water. The Lead and Copper Rule does its very best to help control the lead and copper found in drinking water, especially with the revisions made to it in 2021. It is imperative to know what the Lead and Copper Rule means, the changes that will soon take place to the Lead and Copper Rule, how it affects the public, and the necessity of the customer participation and cooperation.

The Lead and Copper Rule was put in place to regulate drinking water in order to make sure there is not too much lead or copper found in the water. If lead concentrations are found to be over 15 parts per notation and if copper concentrations are found to be over 1.3 parts per million in more than 10 percent of residents tap water samples, then the system must attempt multiple different actions to better aid and control the problem found in the water. Also, if the lead and copper concentrations are found to be over regulation, then the public must be informed about the steps to take in order to protect themselves and their family that consumes the water and they must be informed that they may have to replace their lead service lines (“The Lead and Copper Rule”).

The Lead and Copper Rule has undergone many changes since it was originally created in 1991. The Lead and Copper Rule was put in place to replace the old standard of 50 parts per notation. The Lead and Copper Rule has endured minor term revisions in the years of 2000 and 2004. It also endured a long-term revision made in 2021, which is supposed to improve the drinking water for communities, children at schools, and children at daycare facilities. The long-term revision made in 2021 are supposed to improve the water quality by protecting the risks of lead exposure by keeping lead out of the nation’s drinking water (“The Lead and Copper Rule”).

The Lead and Copper Rules not only affects myself and my community, but everyone across the United States.

Consuming lead and copper in any way possible is very dangerous to humans and animals. It has an awfully large impact on people's health. Too much exposure to lead and copper can lead to many health issues. From anything to stomach distress and brain damage, to possibly even death. The Flint, Michigan issue is a prime example as to how lead can negatively affect people's health. It started in 2014 when the city started to take water from the Flint River to save money without properly treating the water, which was soon found to be contaminated with lead. Flint residents immediately started complaining about the quality of the water, such as the taste, color, and smell. Nevertheless, officials adamantly assured Flint residents that the water was harmless and safe to consume. Children were later found to have high levels of lead in their systems, so the doctors in Flint, Michigan began advocating against the use the Flint water because it was unsafe to all who consumed it. All the while, state regulators still insisted that the water was not lead contaminated and completely safe. It was later found that the resident's water in Flint, Michigan was in fact, not safe to drink, and Flint was found to be in a state of emergency. Eventually, the state of emergency that Flint had initiated ended and the people responsible for the Flint, Michigan incident were held accountable for their actions of providing Flint, Michigan residents with lead tainted water. The moral of the story is that clean water is critical to everyone's health even animals, and without clean water, you can possibly get sick. Which is why it is so crucial to have a rule in place, such as the Lead and Copper Rule, to make sure water is of exceptional condition and dependable for United States citizens to drink (The Associated Press).

Customer participation and cooperation is a vital role to any business, especially businesses that control your drinking water. Customer participation and cooperation shows that customers are loyal and willing to participate in things such as surveys about your business and to spread good news about your business. I am sure that any person wants to be positive that their drinking water is safe and reliable, which is why it is important to have a good relationship with your local water department. Having a healthy relationship with your local water department is also essential. Any good business would want their customers to feel comfortable asking questions and learning about what it is that they do, especially ones wanting to learn more about the water that they consume on a daily basis. Ensuring that your family has clean drinking water is essential to the growth of a healthy family.

Clean and reliable water sources will continue to be necessary for many families not only in the United States, but around the world. Many people in different countries do not have the same opportunities that us Americans have to clean drinking water. With the help of the Lead and Copper Rule, water will continue to be clean and safe to consume, especially with the new long-term revisions that are being made in order to make our drinking water the cleanest and healthiest it can possibly be. The Lead and Copper Rule has constantly changed throughout the year it was created in 1991, in order to make sure that water is the best it can possibly be for consumers. It is so vital to have clean drinking water because if water is not clean, people can and will get sick from lead and copper tainted water. Always be sure to be aware of what the Lead and Copper Rule means, any new changes that will take place in the Lead and Copper Rule, and how the Lead and Copper Rule could affect you and your family.

Works Cited

“Lead and Copper Rule.” *EPA*, Environmental Protection Agency, 16 Dec. 2021, <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/lead-and-copper-rule>.

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