



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Clarksburg Water Board starts implementation of additional corrosion control treatment

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, BRIDGEPORT, W.Va. – The Clarksburg Water Board is moving forward with plans to implement additional corrosion control measures in its system. CITY OF BRIDGEPORT currently purchases their drinking water from the Clarksburg Water Board.

Corrosion is a common issue in water pipes. It is of particular importance for older pipes that contain lead, such as those serving homes built before 1987. To avoid corrosion, it is important that minerals in the water supply build up inside the pipes to coat them with what is known as “scale”. If there is not enough scale in the pipes, elements from the pipe, like lead, can get in the water.

To create additional scale in its water pipes, the Clarksburg Water Board will be adding a chemical called phosphoric acid to its water. A common food ingredient – often found in colas and juices – the phosphoric acid will quickly dissolve in the water, breaking into hydrogen and phosphate. The hydrogen will become a part of the water and the phosphate will stick to the walls of the pipes to add to the amount of scale.

Customers may notice staff members of the CITY OF BRIDGEPORT in the community next week as they flush fire hydrants to get the phosphate into the system in a uniform fashion.

Those with any questions about the phosphorous addition may contact the CITY OF BRIDGEPORT at 304-842-8231, or the West Virginia Division of Health and Human Resources at 1-800-642-8589.

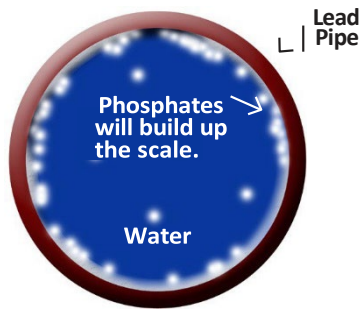
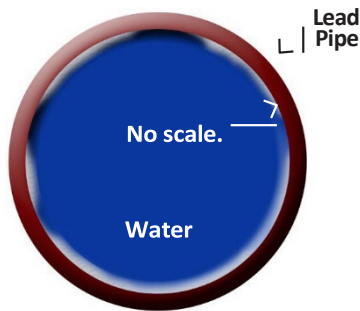
ADDING PHOSPHATE TO CITY OF BRIDGEPORT WATER SUPPLY 01/12/2023

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Why is there lead in some homes' water?

- Lead pipes, solder, and faucets used to be common. We now know that lead can harm our health.
- Homes built before 1987 are more likely to have lead service lines and pipes. Some faucets and certain kinds of solder could also have lead in them, even those installed recently.
- The lead found in tap water in homes is likely from these older pipes, solder, and faucets.
- Replacing old pipes, service lines, and faucets is the only sure way to limit the lead in your tap water.
- New pipes, solder, and faucets should meet EPA lead-free standards.

Why are we putting phosphate in the water?



- Over the years, minerals in our water have built up inside our water pipes.
- This mineral build-up is called scale.
- This scale helps to keep a lot of lead from the pipes out of our water.
- If something happens to the scale and the water can touch the pipes, lead can get into the water.
- Adding phosphate to the water helps build and maintain scale by collecting on the sides of the pipes and sticking to the metal.

What is Phosphoric Acid?

Although there is some corrosion control in the water, implementation of phosphate will help build up and maintain better scale. To get the phosphate needed for this to work, the Clarksburg Water Board will be adding a chemical called *phosphoric acid* to its water. Phosphoric acid is a common food ingredient in things like cola or juice. The City of Bridgeport currently purchases your drinking water from the Clarksburg Water Board.

The phosphoric acid will quickly dissolve in the water and break down into two parts - hydrogen and phosphate. Hydrogen will become a part of the water and the leftover phosphate will settle out and stick to the walls of the pipes - building up scale like in the picture above.

Learn About Phosphate

- Phosphorus is a natural mineral that your body needs. It works with calcium to keep your bones strong and healthy.
- Phosphate is a type of salt that has phosphorus in it.
- Phosphate is being added to the water to help put more scale in the pipes.
- The WVDHHR, and the EPA worked together to find how much phosphate is needed in the water going into homes.
- Most people likely already eat and drink more phosphate in everyday food than the very small amount that will be found in the tap water.
- Continue to use water filters (if applicable) that remove lead until further notice.



If you have questions about the phosphate being added to City of Bridgeport water, please call the City of Bridgeport at 304-842-8231.

If you have questions about phosphate and your health, please call WVDHHR at 1-800-642-8589.

Contact your physician if you have specific health concerns regarding this change to your drinking water.