



Virginia Cooperative Extension

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INDICATORS OF **LEAD** IN WELL WATER

**1 OUT OF 7 PRIVATE SYSTEMS
HAD HIGH LEAD IN WATER.***



Lead leaching from plumbing is greater in more corrosive waters.

Corrosive waters may have lower pH[†] and alkalinity values.

**THERE IS NO SAFE LEVEL
OF EXPOSURE TO LEAD.**



Children under the age of 6 and pregnant women are especially vulnerable.

pH ↓ = **LEAD** ↑



**UNTIL 2014, "LEAD-FREE" PLUMBING
COULD CONTAIN UP TO 8% LEAD!**



YOU ARE MORE LIKELY TO HAVE **LEAD IN THE WATER IF YOU HAVE:**



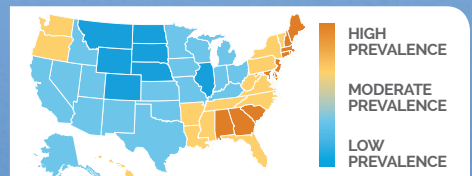
SIGNS OF CORROSION

Like a metallic taste to water or blue-green staining.



A SHALLOW WATER SYSTEM

Like a spring or shallow well, such as dug or bored well.



CORROSIVE GROUNDWATER

USGS report: Potential corrosivity of untreated groundwater in the US.

**The best way to know if your water has lead
is to get it tested.**

Contact the Virginia Household Water Quality Program for testing information:
www.wellwater.bse.vt.edu • wellwater@vt.edu • 540-231-9058

*Lead above the EPA lead action level of 15 µg/L in 250 mL first draw. Statistic is based on testing efforts in North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Virginia; [†]EPA recommends a pH value between 6.5-8.5.

References: Barros, EpiNotes Newsletter 2013; Pieper et al. J. Water Health 2015; Pieper et al. J. Environ. Health 2016; Swistock et al., J. Environ. Health 1993 and 2014