

## **INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS**

The Department of Public Health uses a combination of standards and advisory levels to help consumers interpret their water test results. Their excess does not necessarily mean that the water is harmful, but it might indicate that the source of the problem be found and corrected.

**LEAD:** Lead is a metal formerly used in soldering joints in plumbing systems. It is now prohibited, but many houses still have lead in their plumbing systems. An excess amount of lead in the water can have effects on the brain, kidneys and nervous system. Treatment: Reverse Osmosis.

IMS( Immediate Metal Sample) - Is taken to determine the maximum concentration of metals present in the water as a result of the water being undisturbed for a minimum of six to eight hours.

NMS(Normal Metal Sample)- Is taken to determine the base water quality. The NMS procedure is also taken as a follow up for a high IMS result.

**Elevated Lead Results:** If your lead result is above the acceptable limit of 15 ug/L, here are a few options you have:

A. If your sample was taken as a first draw sample, which means the water was sitting in the pipes for a minimum of six hours, you should do a follow up test representing the drinking water quality. You should find the result to be much lower than the initial sample.

B. If your sample was taken as a normal running sample you should check the pH of the water to see if the water is acidic. The reason for this is when you have a low pH, lead based solder leaches off of the pipes causing lead to be in your water. You will either need a filter for the lead problem, as stated above, and an Acid Neutralizer for the pH.

**\*\*NOTE:** Department of Health recommends Lead sample be taken using the **IMS** procedure. If IMS procedure was not used the results may not indicate the maximum amount of lead in your water.