

Brevard County Utilities...Providing Safe and Reliable Drinking Water



Water quality has been in the news a lot lately due to the crisis in Flint, Michigan. Brevard County Utility Services Department (BCUSD) wants to assure its customers that we are committed to providing safe and reliable drinking water.

BCUSD provides drinking water to Mims, Barefoot Bay and the San Sebastian Woods subdivision in Micco. All three water treatment plants have recently sampled for Lead and Copper as required by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and all results were well below the Action Level set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). To view all sampling results at these systems please visit our website to see the last three years of Annual Water Quality Reports.

<http://www.brevardcounty.us/UtilityServices/DrinkingWater>

BCUSD does not have any lead service lines in any of our drinking water distribution system. Lead is considered to be an inorganic contaminant that can make its way into drinking water through the corrosion of household plumbing systems or the erosion of natural deposits. For added protection, the Mims and San Sebastian Woods treatment plants add a corrosion inhibitor, orthophosphate, to the treatment process. Orthophosphate builds a coating inside the pipes to keep any lead or copper from leaching into the water. The Barefoot Bay treatment plant has had historically low lead and copper results and has been able to maintain the balance of pH and alkalinity within the system so that additional treatment has not been needed. Daily tests at all three treatment plants verify that treatment is working and the water is not corrosive.

Many homes built before 1980 may still have lead pipes. Homes built after 1980 typically have copper or PVC pipes. Many fixtures do, however, contain lead and pipes in the home may contain lead solder. In 2011 Congress passed the Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act. This act prohibits the use or introduction of pipes, pipe fittings, plumbing fitting or fixtures containing more than a weighted average of 0.25% that are used for drinking water services. Prior to 2011 these

items were allowed to have a weighted average of 8%. If you have any questions about the type of pipes or fixtures in your home, contact a certified plumber.

If you are still concerned about lead in your home, there are steps you can take to reduce exposure:

1. **Run your water to flush out lead.** If water hasn't been used in several hours, run water for a minute or two or until the water becomes cold before using it for drinking or cooking. This flushes lead-containing water from the pipes.

2. **Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.

3. **You may want to consider purchasing a water filter.** Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or www.nsf.org for information on performance standards for water filters. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to protect water quality.

Additional information on lead in drinking water and ways to minimize exposure can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/your-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>. For more information about drinking water systems please click on the DrinkTap.org link below.

BCUSD would also be happy to answer any questions you may have. Please call 321-633-2093 during regular business hours.

