



Medford Water Commission Quality & Corrosion Study



MWC's water meets all current EPA standards. The study continues MWC's tradition of providing the highest quality drinking water.

Continuing a tradition of providing the highest quality drinking water.

Medford Water Commission (MWC) is embarking on a two-year Water Quality and Corrosion Study to explore ways to further improve the quality of MWC's water. The study focuses on lead and copper, which can be released in water system piping and household plumbing. Additional treatment may reduce lead and copper levels, further protecting public health.

MWC is taking a multi-pronged approach to lead and copper in the water system. Steps include:

- ✓ Removing lead pipe "pigtailed" installed in the early 1900s.
- ✓ **Conducting a Water Quality and Corrosion Study to evaluate treatment options that can reduce the water's tendency to release lead and copper.**
- ✓ Working with third-party experts and the latest Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidance to identify a scientifically rigorous and credible solution.

What can I do today to provide the best quality water to my family?

Here are some ideas from the EPA that homeowners can take to provide the best quality tap water. These simple steps reduce lead and copper levels in drinking water and provide the best possible water to your family:

- **Always make baby formula starting with cold water – never use hot tap water.**
Lead and copper levels are lower in cold water.
- **Run the tap until the water is cold before drinking.** Especially when the water has been sitting in the pipes.
- **Consider replacing older faucets.**
Newer pipes and fixtures manufactured after 2014 are required to meet lead-free standards and are less at-risk.

For more water quality tips go to medfordwater.org and search for "lead questions and answers."



Finding the best option

The Water Quality and Corrosion Study includes four phases to evaluate the best path forward. This thorough approach follows EPA best practices and assures that any treatment chosen will work with MWC's two water sources and piping system.



MWC is working with Black & Veatch and a team of internationally recognized experts in lead and copper corrosion to access the best available science. The study will tell MWC how much the water quality will improve and estimate how much corrosion treatment will cost.

MWC's two sources of plentiful, healthful water

MWC is fortunate to have two high-quality water sources. Big Butte Springs water is used year-round. When more water is needed in summer, MWC gets it from the Rogue River which is treated at the Robert A. Duff Water Treatment Plant.

Phase 1

May 2017 – Oct 2017

What are the levels of lead and copper today?

Lead and copper comes from piping and household plumbing, so levels vary at different locations. Reviewing past lead and copper test results tells us what the levels are and where they could be a problem.

Reviewing past test results help us understand at what level lead and copper levels are found and where.



Phase 2

May 2017 – Oct 2017

What are the best treatment options to test?

To identify the most promising options for study, treated water is put in jars containing lead and copper materials then tested over time. The best treatment options will have the lowest levels of dissolved lead and copper.

Testing in jars identifies best treatment methods to study



Phase 3

Nov 2017 – Nov 2018

How well do the options work in real world conditions?

Treated water is tested in "pipe loops" using real pipe from MWC's system. Results tell us how well treatment solutions work in MWC's water and piping.

Pipe loops simulate the City's water distribution system



Phase 4

Oct 2017 – Dec 2018

What is the best path forward for MWC?

The final analysis will identify the best option for MWC, preserving the community's excellent water quality, safeguarding health, and keeping MWC's water affordable.

The best path forward will provide better water at a reasonable cost



Learn more:

Go to www.medfordwater.org or Contact **Water Quality** at **541-774-2430**