

Lead

Lead is a heavy metal substance used in several types of piping and as an additive in paint. It most typically makes its way into drinking water through the corrosion of household plumbing systems or the erosion of natural deposits into surface water sources. Ingestion of lead in drinking water has both short-term and long-term effects. Short-term exposure to lead in adults can interfere with red blood cell chemistry and increase blood pressure. Long-term exposure can result in kidney failure and/or stroke.

Lead ingestion in children can cause severe physical and mental developmental delays.