Lead, Copper, and Safe Drinking Water

While the sampling results of all routine testing are available through the OneStop feature on the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services website, we've provided our results for the most recent lead and copper testing below.

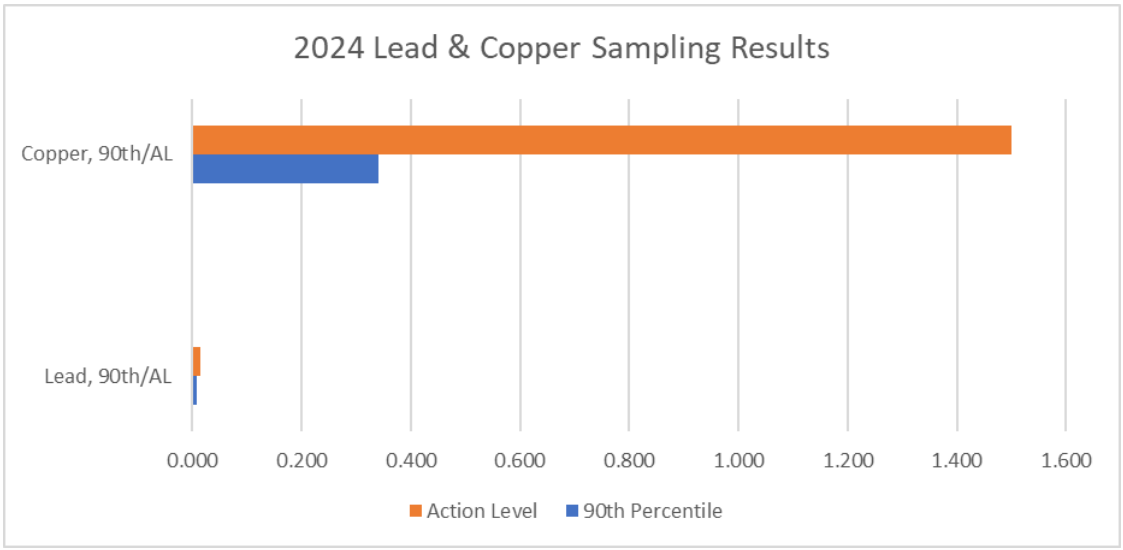
SWDA

The Safe Water Drinking Act of 1986 established specific guidelines for the treatment and monitoring of drinking water. Under the direction of the Environmental Protection Agency, in 1991 the Lead and Copper rule went into effect, which outlined monitoring requirements and treatment techniques for lead and copper, as well as establishing Action Levels (AL) and Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs). Action Levels determine at what point a water utility must take additional steps to control the presence of organic and inorganic materials found in the water supply. The current AL for lead is .015mg/L, and 1.3mg/L for copper.

New Hampshire DES requires public water systems (PWS) to routinely test specific consumer sites for lead and copper. The size of the PWS determines the number of sites that must be sampled. In response to changes in national standards for lead and copper in drinking water, the frequency of New Hampshire PWS sampling has increased. In 2024, the VDE was required to take samples from 40 homes identified by NHDES.

Calculating Results

There are specific guidelines for obtaining a sample, including location and time of day. Water that has remained in pipes overnight, for example, has a higher probability of containing lead than water that is constantly flowing. The final result is calculated by taking the 90th percentile of the total results; out of the 40 sample results arranged in a list from lowest to highest, the 36th value is used to determine the system compliance with the Action Level. Based on that formulary, our results are shown below. System results for lead was .007mg/L, and .34mg/L for copper.



Sampling for 2025 will commence in March, with 40 sites determined by NHDES. With the input from residents through the 2024 sampling period, we have been able to add an additional 40 sites to the sampling location list provided by NHDES. Additional sites will provide a larger range of data for 2025.