



Water Quality Association

of Wisconsin

POSITION PAPER: LEAD

WQAW POSITION STATEMENT: The final barrier to ensuring clean drinking water is through water treatment systems either point of entry (POE) or point of use (POU). For most regulated and non-regulated contaminants, certified (state approved) water treatment devices can reduce these contaminants below the EPA guidelines.

As the state Legislature looks to address Wisconsin's water issues, we believe water treatment systems are integral to the safety of Wisconsin's drinking water and as a permanent solution to many of these water concerns.

LEAD ISSUES: Lead has a tendency to be complexed and precipitated by a large number of substances. Studies indicate that nearly all the lead in users' tap water does not come from the primary water source or from the municipal treatment plant, but as a result of corrosion that occurs after the water leaves the treatment facility. Lead can enter the home drinking water by leaching from service connections, solder used in copper piping and from brass fixtures. Replacement of service lines does not necessarily reduce, much less eliminate, unhealthy lead levels due to potential presence of lead solder used on piping and/or lead in plumbing fixtures.

HOW TO REMOVE LEAD FROM WATER

Residential Treatment Point-of-Entry (POE) Point-of-Use (POU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reverse Osmosis• Solid Block and Precoat Adsorption Filters (properly designed submicron filtration and absorption adsorption media)• Strong Acid Cation Exchange (Na⁺ Form)• Distillation
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2019-2020 LEGISLATIVE BILLS SPECIFIC TO LEAD CONTAMINATION

AB 409/SB 370 (Johnson/Gruszynski)

ISSUE: Creates a nonrefundable income tax credit and a corporate income and franchise tax credit for costs paid to eliminate a lead hazard in a dwelling.

STATUS: Introduced 9/19, referred to committees.

WQAW POSITION: None

AB 399/SB 371 (Johnson/Haywood)

ISSUE: Increases bonding authority to \$40 million for projects involving forgivable loans to private users of public water systems to cover not more than 50 percent of the cost to replace lead service lines.

STATUS: Introduced 9/19, referred to committees

WQAW POSITION: None

AB 475/SB 424 (Thiesfeldt/Cowles)

ISSUE: This bill requires child care centers, child care providers and recreational/educational camps to test for lead in drinking water and provide potable water if lead contamination is found, in order to obtain or renew their license. The bill specifies that remediation may include affixing a point-of-source or point-of-entry filter to a drinking water source and testing may be conducted with such a filter affixed.

STATUS: Passed Senate, hearing in Assembly

WQAW POSITION: Support

AB 476/SB 423 (Thiesfeldt/Cowles)

ISSUE: This bill requires K-12 public and private schools to test for lead in drinking water and remediate if found. The schools can use water treatment options for remediation of the lead.

STATUS: Passed Senate committee, hearing in Assembly

WQAW POSITION: Support