

## Corrosion control prevents lead from leaching into the water



Food-grade phosphate, typically referred to as ortho-phosphate, is mixed into the water at the purification plants. The phosphate coats the pipes to prevent corrosion, or leaching, of lead from pipes and plumbing fixtures. The Milwaukee Water Works has been providing this corrosion control since 1996.

The lead pipe on the left is coated to prevent corrosion. The lead pipe on the right without the coating shows the water dissolved the lead from the pipe.

- Phosphate is the second most abundant mineral in the human body after calcium.
- Phosphate is a food additive “generally recognized as safe” by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Phosphate is found in milk and soda pop.
- The typical amount of phosphate in a quart of treated drinking water is 100 times less than the amount found in the average American diet.
- You’d have to drink 10-15 quarts of treated drinking water to equal the amount of phosphate in one can of soda pop.