

**LEAD AND COPPER REDUCTION TREATMENT INFORMATION  
PHOSPHOROUS TREATMENT**

In an attempt to reduce lead and copper levels in the drinking water, the city of \_\_\_\_\_ will soon begin treating the water with a phosphorous based additive called Calgon 9.

The city hopes the additive will make its water less corrosive and as a result less likely to absorb lead and copper from materials in consumer's plumbing systems.

Phosphates, the usable form of phosphorous, have been added to drinking water for more than 50 years in order to control corrosion, scale, deposits, and discoloration, without causing any adverse health effects.

Phosphorous is an element found in the environment which is also a nutrient essential to all life. It is naturally present in foods such as milk and bananas and is added to some foods including: beverages, cheeses, meat, poultry and baked goods.

The City will be adding only a small amount of Calgon-9 to the water system. For an adult, the National Research Council recommends 800 milligrams of phosphorous per person per day. The amount added would mean the average adult would need to drink 800 gallons of water to reach the recommended level.

The addition of a phosphate to the city water system should not affect the taste or odor of the water and may make the water clearer. Initially, however, the phosphate additive may soften old mineral deposits in the distribution system causing them to discharge. As a result, consumers may see rusty particles in the water coming out of their taps. If this happens, the taps should be flushed by letting the water run until it clears up.

If consumers should have any questions or concerns, please contact the city water department at \_\_\_\_\_.