

## Health Effects and Sources of Heavy Metals in Drinking Water

This table was prepared for use on the website [betterwaterchoice.com](http://betterwaterchoice.com)  
 all information on sources and health effects originate from the EPA website at the following link  
<http://water.epa.gov/drink/contaminants/index.cfm#List>

Contaminant	Source	Health Effects	Removal
<a href="#">Lead</a>	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infants and children: Delays in physical or mental development; children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities</li> <li>• Adults: Kidney problems; high blood pressure</li> </ul>	
<a href="#">Copper</a>	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short term exposure: Gastrointestinal distress</li> <li>• Long term exposure: Liver or kidney damage</li> <li>• People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor if the amount of copper in their water exceeds the action level</li> </ul>	
<a href="#">Mercury (inorganic)</a>	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills and croplands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kidney damage</li> </ul>	
<a href="#">Cadmium</a>	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kidney damage</li> </ul>	