



YOUR WATER MAY CONTAIN LEAD AND COPPER
Lead can cause serious health problems

January 15, 2021

Dear Rowan County Northeast Water System Customer,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you about an effort Rowan County is undertaking to make sure your water is safe. To date we have only tested twenty (20) houses with four (4) houses having elevated levels of lead above the Action Level. The source of lead is limited to privately-owned plumbing materials as determined by the knowledge of the distribution system materials and inspections completed on two (2) of the four (4) homes exceeding the Action Level. Household plumbing materials and service lines containing lead are often found in homes built before 1986, as well as homes with faucets, valves, and components made of brass. Even brass faucets, fittings, and valves labeled as "lead-free" may contribute to lead in drinking water.

**SEE PAGE 2 TO RECEIVE A
\$72 credit on
your water bill.**

Rowan County has been working with Salisbury-Rowan Utilities (the operator of the drinking water system), the State of North Carolina, and experts from Virginia Tech University to determine the best long-term treatment solution.

Last summer, Salisbury Rowan Utilities provided notification to you that elevated levels of lead above the Action Level had been found in some homes and buildings in the Northeast Water System (NEWS). The letter that was mailed to you dated June 16, 2020 offered free, voluntary lead and copper testing and announced two community meetings (over Zoom due to COVID) to inform the public and answer questions on lead in drinking water. Few responses were received from the letter and the community meetings were sparsely attended. As a result, only a handful of homes participated in the voluntary lead and copper testing effort.

In the interests of fully protecting public health the Rowan County Board of Commissioners has approved a plan to provide you (and every connection on the NEWS system) with a FREE Brita pitcher with two certified filters. Barring mail delays, a pitcher should arrive at your home or building no later than February 15, 2021. If you do not receive a Brita pitcher with two certified filters by February 15, 2021 please contact me at 704-216-8180.

Included with your pitcher and certified filters will be educational information from Rowan County and instructions on how to safely use the pitchers. The certified filters provided may last up to six months. You will initially receive two filters. If your filters need replacement more often than every six months, you will be instructed on whom to contact to receive additional free filters.

We believe giving you the Brita pitcher is simply the right thing to do. We want to make sure the public's health is protected as we find the right solution in the best, scientifically confirmed manner.

130 WEST INNES STREET – SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA 28144
PHONE: 704-216-8180

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Along with the Brita pitcher and certified filters, every connection on the NEWS system will also receive a FREE Lead and Copper Water Sampling Kit so you can voluntarily take and return a water sample for a lead and copper test. A certified laboratory will conduct lead and copper tests on your sample and the results will be shared with you. Included in the testing kit will be a pre-paid delivery packet so you can return your sample FREE of charge.

The testing program is the best way to ensure that our long-term solution will reduce the levels of lead in your water for years to come. To thank you for your help,

[Rowan County is offering you a \\$72.00 credit on your water bill](#)

if you return a water sample that follows the instructions that will come with the **FREE Lead and Copper Water Sampling Kit**.

You can reduce your consumption of lead in your drinking water by doing the following:

- Have your water tested. Take part in our FREE testing program.
- Properly use the Brita water pitcher and certified filter provided by Rowan County.
- Let cold water run at the faucet for at least 3 minutes before using it for drinking or cooking.
- Use only cold water. Hot water has the potential to absorb more lead from the piping, and heating or boiling your water does NOT remove lead from drinking water.
- Regularly clean your faucet aerators. Lead particles can collect in your aerator.

For more information on our Brita pitcher distribution, our Lead and Copper Testing Program, and other information about the current situation, we invite you to visit our website at www.rowancountync.gov/water.

Rowan County thanks you for your patience and consideration as we work toward a solution. With your help, we feel confident that we will implement the right long-term solution, benefitting you for years to come.

If you have any questions, you may reach me on my office phone **704-216-8180**, cell phone **704-213-8369** or email aaron.church@rowncountync.gov.

Sincerely,

  
Electronic Signature
Electronic Signature
ROWAN COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA
Be an original.

Aaron Church
Rowan County Manager