# To all Harpers Ferry Water Works customers - here is news about a survey being mailed to you

# Lead and Copper Survey

During the week of June 13, 2021, a lead and copper survey will be mailed out to all water customers of our Harpers Ferry water district.

**Please look for a blue envelope from HFWW in your mail that will contain the survey and a return envelope.**

The survey asks for information about the type of materials used in the plumbing system of your house, apartment or business.

We encourage you to answer the questions on the survey as completely as you can and use the included self-addressed return envelope to **return the survey within one week of receiving it**. However, if circumstances prevent you from doing that, we will accept your survey when you are able to complete and send it. We need everyone to send in his or her survey.

**Frequently Asked Questions:**

**Why is completing and returning the survey important?**

Because the presence of any lead in a water system is so devastating to our health, the Environmental Protection Agency has asked all water utilities in our country to distribute a questionnaire to its water customers in order to determine if there is lead or copper with lead solder in any plumbing system in the homes and buildings in our community.   Some of the questions will ask about the composition of the plumbing in the structure and some questions ask about the age of the structure, which would inform us about the building materials at the time it was built.

We are also required to perform a materials inventory of all service lines, both the public and private sections. Therefore, other questions will be about the service line, which is the pipe(s) between the water main and the meter and also between the meter and your house. More details about this part of the survey will be given in the survey itself.

**What if I don’t know the answer to a question?**

The survey allows you to answer “DO NOT KNOW” if you do not know the answer to a question.

**How will this survey data be used?**

We will use the survey to find structures that fit EPA guidelines for where to obtain water samples. We will collect samples of water at 25 residences or businesses for two six-month periods, for the purpose of testing for lead and copper.

To the best of our knowledge, our water system does not contain any lead pipes or service lines. However, older homes may have been plumbed with copper pipe that had lead solder, particularly before its use was banned by West Virginia state law in 1986.

The information from the survey will also be used to make a map of all of the plumbing in the water district; however, there are provisions in the federal guidelines to allow the public version of the map to exclude exact addresses if there were identified lead lines there.

**If asked, will I have to provide a sample of water from my home?**

No, if you are asked to provide samples of water, you are not required to do so and you may decline. However, if you are asked to provide a water sample and you do provide it, the individual results from testing your water will be provided to you.

**Would the results from the water testing at my house ever be made public?**

In next year’s Consumer Confidence Report, the range of the results from all of the sampling will be reported, with no identifying information about the addresses where the samples were taken.

HFWW needs your help to be sure that we are continuing to test at the best locations to monitor our water as well as satisfy federal guidelines so we can continue to provide all of our customers with drinking water that meets the current standards.

If you have questions about the lead and copper survey, you can call the Water Clerk at

304-535-2206 Ext. 1.