



21 March 2006

Gai Padden
CL Services
2/ 17 Strang Court
SOUTH FREMANTLE 6160

RE: COPPER IN DRINKING WATER

Dear Gai,

We confirm that a relatively high percentage of the samples that you sent to us [from various locations in and around Greater Metropolitan Perth] contained copper. Our testing did however reveal that where copper was identified it appeared to be the result of corrosion within the home (it was not present in incoming water supplies).

Copper in domestic water supplies can generally be attributed to corrosion of copper pipes within the home. Characteristically, copper will leave traces of blue/ green staining on white sinks, tiles and toilet bowls etc.

Copper can be a cumulative heavy metal and is therefore best eliminated from water supplies that are used for drinking, cooking and showering. Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 1996 states that "Based on aesthetic considerations, the concentration of copper in drinking water should not exceed 1 mg/l". Under the heading "Health Considerations" these guidelines state....."Copper is stored in the liver, brain and muscle tissue". "High concentrations can also be found in the kidneys, heart and hair."

Copper corrosion can be caused by many factors including the chemical structure of the incoming water supply, poor earthing of pipes within the home, the presence of dissimilar metals in the pipe-work infrastructure within the home and low pH etc. Because of the many varying factors influencing corrosion, it can be extremely difficult to control.

Our recommendation is to install copper [removal] rated point of use drinking water purifiers in conjunction with similarly rated shower filters.

NOTE: The copper tests that we undertook were limited in number and our findings relate only to those tests conducted. This report does not imply that copper is present in all domestic water supplies in Perth.

Yours sincerely,

WES BURFITT
General Manager

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