Extensive studies have shown that excessive amounts of lead in drinking water has several toxic effects including central nervous system damage. Children are particularly susceptible to these effects.

Due to these findings and in accordance with the 1986 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act, effectively immediately, the use of lead solder or flux exceeding .2 % lead content is prohibited in new installations or repairs of public water systems and of residential or non-residential plumbing in buildings connected to such systems. The lead content of pipes in or connected to public water supply systems shall not exceed 8%.