



Is my water safe?

EXTREMELY!!

THE FGS

(the standards of all standards)

The Environmental Final Governing Standards (FGS) for Germany are a combination of the most strict of each water quality standard between German, European Union, and US regulations. This means the water entering USAG Wiesbaden is more regulated, and considered cleaner than in the majority of the US. The FGS is updated regularly to ensure water quality stays of the highest standards as policies change.

Where does my water come from?

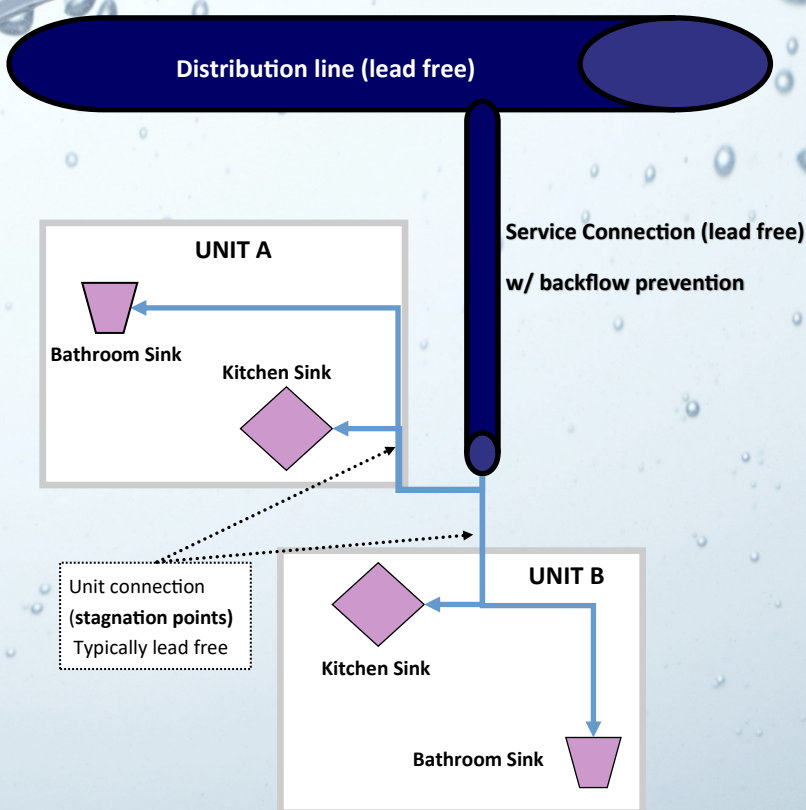
USAG Wiesbaden (Clay, Hainerberg, and housing areas) receives drinking water from the local water provider, ESWE, who tests and treats **groundwater**.

Groundwater is naturally higher in minerals due to the natural filtration process that occurs as the water flows through an aquifer. Many such minerals are beneficial to human health, and are kept in the drinking water for this reason. Over time your body can adjust to the mineral content. However, if you are not used to 'hard' water, which contains more Magnesium and Calcium, your skin and hair can be dry initially.

If the water is so great, why do I receive occasional exceedance notifications?

Water entering the entire distribution system is of highest quality, but may be impacted in individual buildings if the water is sitting in the pipes for extended periods of time (say, if you're TDY or on an amazing vacation to USAG-Bavaria Garmisch's Edelweiss Resort). When water stagnates, the pipe or fixture material may leach into the water, decreasing quality.

Would you drink a glass of water you left out on the counter after being gone a week? NO? Then don't drink water the second it comes out of the tap. Let it run for a few seconds and you will minimize the risk of stagnant water. Read on for more tips on how you can improve your water quality!



My neighbor received an exceedance notification, does that mean I have contamination too?

No! The majority of all exceedances are due to issues within the unit itself (i.e. **stagnation**, unreplaced aerators, old faucets, and *very rarely* old plumbing).



Lead in Drinking Water Information

What is Lead?

Lead is a naturally occurring metal found in small amounts throughout our environment. While lead has a broad range of beneficial properties used by industry, it is toxic if ingested by humans in high amounts.

What is the Army doing to reduce lead in drinking water?

Each year, USAG Wiesbaden receives roughly 1.5 million gallons of high quality potable water from our local German suppliers who treat the drinking water prior to distribution to us and our German neighbors. Water Quality from the USAG Wiesbaden distribution system is monitored and set to standards by the Germany Environmental Final Governing Standards (FGS) which combine the most strict regulations between German and US EPA standards. The Army Public Health Command routinely tests our water sources to ensure the Garrison receives high quality drinking water. Additionally, the Army is conducting the second installment of a five-year lead testing campaign to ensure all housing unit primary delivery points (kitchen taps) provide Soldiers and their Families safe drinking water. USAG Wiesbaden Army Family Housing units have been tested for lead with plans to achieve the Army's goal of having 100% tested (again) by FY26. Less than 10% of kitchen faucets are reported at or above the EPA's 15 part per billion action limit for lead and are promptly serviced or replaced to reduce lead levels.

What can I do to reduce my potential exposure to lead?

Lead can leach into water after extended periods of time in contact with building plumbing and faucets. It only represents a health hazard if consumed, and cannot be absorbed through the skin from touching or bathing. When first moving into your home, flush all faucets and showers for about 3 minutes to ensure the stagnant lines are cleared. When faucets are in regular use, a few-second flush should do the trick! Of all reported exceedances, over 95% were for 1st draw water samples. That is the first ½ pint of water taken directly from the tap after an hour 8 hour stagnation period. This is why it is important to flush your faucet prior to consuming.

Where can I obtain lead testing results for my home?

Your Directorate of Public Works (DPW) Environmental Division will provide testing results if your unit has been tested. USAG Wiesbaden had 100% testing result (of occupied units) in the first five year campaign from FY16-FY20. For more information on lead in drinking water, please visit <https://homeadmin.army.mil/wiesbaden/my-fort/all-services/environmental>, scan the QR Codes below or contact your DPW Environmental Division POC's.



Reduce Lead in Drinking Water



CDC Lead Poisoning Prevention



Drinking Water Best Management Practices

1. Flush the pipes before drinking.

Primarily use your kitchen cold water tap for all your consumption purposes. At the start of each day or after extended periods of non-use, flush the cold water faucet by running the water for about 30 seconds until it becomes noticeably colder indicating you are receiving fresh water from the water main. As a conservation measure, flush water can be used to wash your hands, water your plants or for cleaning purposes.

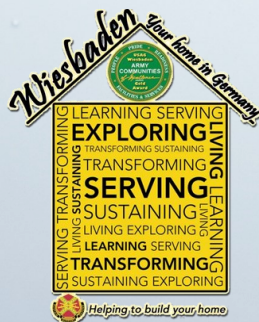
2. Use only cold water to prepare food and drinks.

Use only the cold water, not hot water for drinking, cooking, and especially for making baby formula. If hot water is needed, water should be drawn from the cold tap and then heated. Hot water is more aggressive at leaching metals from plumbing and tends to have lower water quality so be sure to use only cold water for all your consumption purposes.

3. Regularly clean your faucet aerators (twice per year).

Sediment and mineral deposits potentially containing lead and copper from household plumbing can become trapped in faucet aerators. Removing and soaking the aerators in vinegar overnight will dissolve built-up minerals and sediments. New replacement aerators are also available at the Hainerberg Self-Help Store (Building 7802, telephone 0611-143-548-4072). Make sure to bring the old aerators along as there are several different types.

Please contact your DPW Environmental Division with any questions or concerns:



USAG Wiesbaden
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