

Ask your Water Authority to replace your leaded brass water meter with a Zero Lead Meter (ZLM) today!

Global Valve Technology, a Lead Free Partner of The LEAD Group's Lead Safe World Project

1. Yes, in Australia we have Lead at often excessive levels in our water supply, particularly early morning, after returning home from time away, or whenever water flow has been low.
2. This is the reason many water supply companies web pages recommend flushing water for about 30 seconds before drinking it.
3. By far the dominant cause we believe, is not the water supply or pipes, but the brass water meter most of us have. In Australia they are allowed to contain many times more lead than is legal in most developed countries. Up to 18 times higher lead content than legal elsewhere!
4. Why is this so? It is generally cheaper to produce Brass with higher levels of lead. Other advanced countries have introduced rules requiring zero or very low lead levels in water meters and other plumbing products.
5. Recently an Australian designed Zero Lead Water Meter became available in Australia. Over 100,000 have been supplied so far. But if customers **want** a Zero Lead Meter, they need to request this from their water supplier.

Simple facts: -

Lead in water is very bad. Particularly for intellectual development of young children's brains, directly affecting IQ and other outcomes. (World Health Organisation - "There is no known level considered safe" *Editor's note: WHO should have said "the only safe level of lead is zero."*)

Our water is very pure. Except for one item that provides most lead in our water, the old brass water meter. Yes, we are told to always let the water flush 30 seconds before drinking. But can we always rely on young children to do this? And do we really need to ask them to do so, when a simple, no additional cost solution is available?

Australian water meters contain about eighteen times more lead than is allowed by law in USA and much of Europe.

The reason for this is that it is far cheaper to make and mould brass with a high lead percentage than without. Australian law has not changed in decades to reflect the need for low lead while all other developed countries have taken action, led by California in the 1990's.

Four years ago, one Australian Company, Global Valve Technology, offered Lead Free Meters to the Australian Market, competing with mostly foreign suppliers selling leaded product not legal in their home country. These Zero Lead Water Meters cost no more than brass, but use innovative patented Australian Technology provided by this wholly Australian company, Global Valve Technology. GVT have signed contracts that see

Australian Water Technology used to supply water to about 55% of new American homes, with further negotiations ongoing.

It takes years to prove reliability of a meter in Australia where water authorities are rightly conservative about new lead-free material, but these water meters are now accepted and are available to customers at many locations in Australia and also to any other water authorities who choose to adopt these. More than 100,000 have been shipped by Global Valve Technology in recent times.

What should we do? Water meters are always being replaced on a regular basis as they wear out. Perhaps consumers ought to have a choice to request a lead-free product from their supplier? Or perhaps we work to phase out leaded meters for all, over a few years? This has not been an insurmountable problem in the USA.



Volcano Art Prize 2019 Entry:

Photographer: Elizabeth O'Brien.

Title: Ask your Water Authority for a ZLM. **Lead Safety Message:** Within 10 days of me asking Sydney Water for a Zero Lead Meter (ZLM) to replace my leaded brass water meter, this Global Valve Technology ZLM appeared!

<https://volcanoartprize.com/portfolio-item/ask-your-water-authority-for-a-zlm/>

You can view a video of the Zero Lead Meter at

<http://www.gvt.com.au/Technology/Water-Meters/GVTs-Zero-Lead-Water-Meter>