



1747 Commerce Way, Paso Robles, CA 93446 Phone: (805) 238-7100

Wilkins Lead-Free Products Frequently Asked Questions – page 1 of 2 September 1, 2009

What is the purpose of lead-free legislation?

To regulate the amount of lead that is permissible in products made of brass or bronze that is used to convey or dispense drinking water. The law allows a maximum weighted average lead content of 0.25% measured by wetted surface area of components of the product.

When does current legislation take effect?

January 1, 2010

Who is responsible for compliance with the low-lead laws?

Anyone introducing into commerce any plumbing product that is intended to convey water for cooking or drinking purposes.

What is meant by the term “entering into commerce”?

Once a product is sold, it has “entered into commerce”. This affects manufacturers, distributors, retailers, contractors, building developers and end-users.

How will the law affect homeowners?

For potable water use, the only products available for purchase by the homeowner must comply with the lead-free restrictions.

How are products for landscape or irrigation affected?

Irrigation products are not affected since the water is not used for drinking or cooking.

How are fire sprinkler systems affected?

Fire protection products are not affected. The legislation is directed toward products that convey water used for cooking and drinking.

How do I know which Wilkins products are lead-free law compliant?

Wilkins products designated with an “XL” suffix are designed and manufactured to comply with lead-free restrictions. (Wilkins 950XLT and 975XL product lines will be designated as XLT2 and XL2). Products are tagged to indicate the XL, XLT2 or XL2 designation.

How does the lead-free restriction affect the cost of products that are compliant?

Materials used in the manufacture of compliant plumbing products are more expensive than traditional materials. This will affect the cost of any product subject to compliance, but some products that contain more brass or bronze material will be more expensive than designs that minimize the brass or bronze content. Shop around.



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Will the lead-free restriction affect the quality of products?

No, quality will not be compromised. Compliant materials are designed to have equivalent properties as traditional materials used in the manufacture of Wilkins products, and have been extensively tested by independent laboratories.

Are the lead-free laws and NSF61 the same?

No, the lead-free laws only restrict the lead content in plumbing products sold in those states with the law. NSF61 is an international, performance based drinking water standard that restricts not only lead, but also other contaminants as well. NSF61 Annex G specifically defines lead-free standards.

What do I do if my water supply contains products that do not comply with the lead-free law?

Nothing – the law affects only products that are sold on or after January 1, 2010.

What about repair parts for my existing products – must they be in compliance?

Since the repair kit is a product being introduced into commerce, the repair kit will need to be compliant. As long as the original valve was installed prior to January 1, 2010, you do not need to replace the existing valve body.