

# CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Do your comments refer to an item on today's agenda?  NO  YES

Item #: \_\_\_\_\_ CONSENT:  NO  YES

The Board of County Commissioners welcomes your comments. Your presentation will be limited to two (2) minutes. If appropriate, the matter(s) you present will be placed on a future commission agenda.

It is requested that you complete this form and return it to the receptionist prior to the beginning of the Citizens' Comments portion of the agenda.

Name: WILLIAM R. WHEELER  
Address: 3153 57 AVE. C.R. E.  
Phone: (Home) 756-0384 (Work) \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of problem or concern:

WATER  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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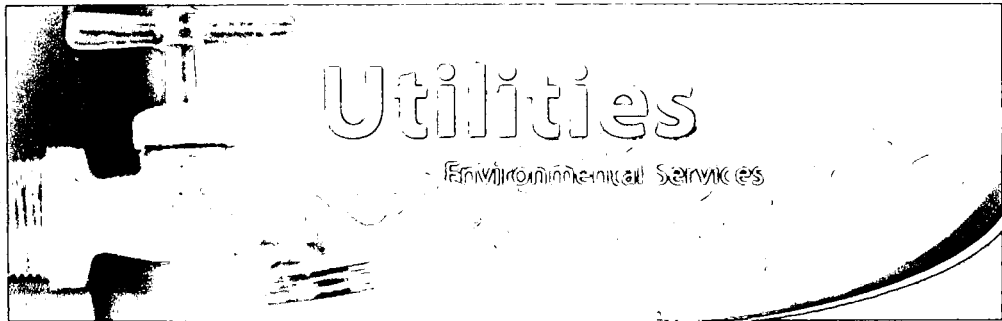
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**Pinhole Leaks in Copper  
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**Pinhole Leaks in Copper Plumbing**

Pinhole leaks in copper plumbing are a widespread problem that affects property owners throughout the United States and elsewhere in the world.

✓ FAQs about Copper Pipe Corrosion

**If your home has experienced pinhole leaks, we want to hear from you. Take our online survey now.**

✓ Copper Corrosion Customer Survey

Although much research has been conducted around the issue, no definitive cause has been determined. Because the leaks were discovered in our area, Sarasota County Utilities established a local task force to research the problem and potential solutions.

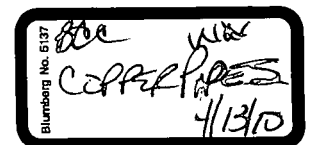
Task force representatives include residents of affected housing developments, professional engineers from Carollo Engineers and Sarasota County Utilities.

To work with the task force examining area issues and recommending solutions, Utilities has engaged Dr. Marc A. Edwards of Virginia Polytechnic Institute, an expert with 14 years' experience conducting research in the field of copper corrosion. Other experts engaged are Dr. Edward Singley, a retired Professor of Environmental Engineering from University of Florida, whose career included extensive research into copper corrosion throughout Florida, and Dr. Daren Lytle with United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) who heads corrosion studies at EPA.

Edwards has tracked pinhole leak occurrences in Alaska, California, Massachusetts, Ohio, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee and Washington, D.C., as well as in Florida.

Sarasota County Utilities is collecting data relating to pinhole leaks. If you receive water and wastewater service by Sarasota County Utilities, call 941-861-5000 and ask about pinhole leaks. The more information we are able to gather, the better base we will have to understand trends and to isolate or rule out conditions that seem to favor pinhole leaks.

*3 E P H B*



# Citizens Concerned About Chloramine (CCAC)

San Francisco Bay Area, California

650 328-0424

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**Effects on Plumbing**

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## Effects on Plumbing

Article in Newspaper

Photographs Showing the Corrosive Effect of Chloramine on Water Heater Pipes

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## Article in Newspaper

The following article first appeared in The Almanac (Menlo Park, CA) on Wednesday, May 17, 2006.

### Water additive causing rise in plumbing problems

Tradesman Ken Russo, who says he suffers respiratory and skin problems resulting from chloramine in the water, points to another "cause and effect" of the chemical additive: a dramatic increase in plumbing problems.

Callers desperate for help with leaks, broken pipes and busted water heaters keep his phone ringing all hours of the day, he says.

Although he prefers to work on remodeling projects, "Lately, all I've been doing is a lot of plumbing."

Mr. Russo attends Citizens Concerned About Chloramine community presentations equipped with a 20-gallon water heater he uses to show the corrosive effects of chloramine.

The SFPUC acknowledges on its Web site that "the lead corrosion concern associated with chloramine is something new and unexpected both by the regulators and the industry." And chloraminated waters "are more aggressive" than chlorine in reacting with rubbers and their derivatives.



Writing Letters  
to the Editor

Mr. Russo says rubber fittings and polyurethane fixtures lose their elasticity and are "more prone to cracking" because of chloramine.

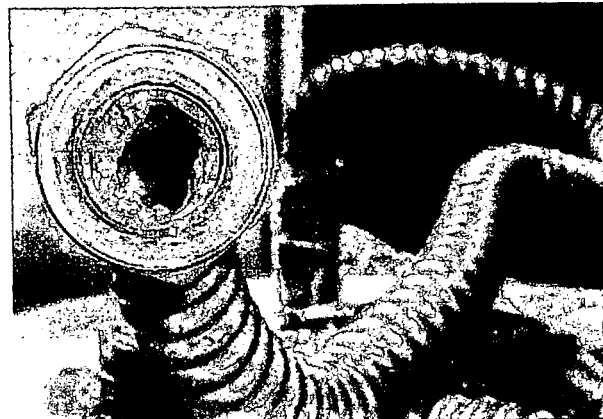
"Parts are corroding and failing at an accelerated rate," he says.

The SFPUC notes on its Web site that chloramine-resistant toilet flapper valves and washers can be purchased at hardware and plumbing supply stores.

—By Renee Batti

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## Photographs Showing the Corrosive Effect of Chloramine on Water Heater Pipes



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## Leaky pipe mystery puzzling plumbers

Small holes are causing big headaches in Sarasota County.

By CAROL E. LEE  
carol.lee@heraldtribune.com

**SARASOTA COUNTY.--** Sarasota County is one of three places in the world to be plagued by pinhole-sized leaks in the copper piping of homes. And it's the only place that has yet to find a solution.

For years, researchers and experts working with the county have tried without success to solve the problem that has cost homeowners millions of dollars for repairs and countless hours of hassle.

The county's latest effort, a six-month test of adding a blend of corrosion inhibitors to the water, appears to be helping. But it is too early to tell, researchers have said.

"What Sarasota is experiencing is an epidemic," said Dr. Marc Edwards, a professor of civil and environmental engineering at Virginia Polytechnic Institute who has been researching copper pinhole leaks since 1991.

Most of the leaks are in parts of the county south of Clark Road, with large concentrations in Palmer Ranch and Venice. So far, all of the homes that have reported leaks have been using county water, said Verne Hall, utilities facilities manager for Sarasota County.

The fear of getting a leak has prompted hundreds of homeowners to pay up to \$10,000 to have the copper water pipes in their homes replaced with plastic pipes, even before they have a problem.



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### Plumbing Problems and Some Implications for Health

- Chloramine can cause leaching of lead from lead pipes, lead soldering and from so called "lead free" brass plumbing parts.
- Lead leached by chloramine can cause lead poisoning. Lead poisoning can cause neurological damage, health problems and even death in young children.
- Chloramine can cause pinhole pitting in copper pipes. Leaks from the pinholes can cause mold to grow. Some molds are highly toxic to humans and can endanger the health of individuals, often permanently.
- Insurance companies do not cover damage from mold. As a result, some homeowners lose their homes.
- Chloramine can cause rubber corrosion of rubber plumbing parts like toilet flappers and rubber casings.
- Rubber corroded parts need to be replaced with chloramine resistant parts such as synthetic polymer.
- Rubber corrosion can be spotted as early as 6 months after chloramine has been added to the water supply. Signs of corrosion can be seen when little black specks appear in the water from plumbing parts.
- The thousands to tens of thousands of dollars in plumbing repair costs caused by chloramine are passed on to property owners.