



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
AND UTILITIES
Water Plant**

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

City of Flint found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Please read this notice closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

Si desea una copia de este aviso en español, por favor llame al 810-787-6537 para tener uno enviado a usted. Una copia también está disponible en www.michigan.gov/flintwater.

What happened? What is being done?

From January through June 2016, lead tap sampling was conducted by residents throughout the city of Flint (City). In July the results from sampling locations that qualify as high-risk sites under United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations were reviewed and used for calculating the 90th percentile. The lead 90th percentile value for this monitoring period was 20 parts per billion (ppb), which exceeds the federal action level of 15 ppb for lead. It should be noted that the most recent rounds of extended sentinel monitoring have shown a significant improvement in the system.

The City has been working to optimize corrosion control treatment in order to recoat the pipes to prevent lead from leaching into the water. The City will continue to optimize and maintain this treatment as required for all large systems under the Lead and Copper Rule.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and EPA Flint Water Response Team spent much of the last 6 months investigating homes in the City for lead service lines. Earlier this year, the City also participated in a pilot program to remove 33 lead service lines. Currently, the City has received funding to hire 3 contractors to begin removing more lead lines next month.

Health Effects of Lead

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

Sources of Lead

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. Drinking water is one possible source of lead exposure. Other sources of lead exposure for most individuals are lead-based paint, lead-contaminated dust or soil, and some plumbing materials. In addition, lead can be found in certain types of pottery, pewter, fixtures, food, and cosmetics. Other sources include exposure in the work place and exposure from certain hobbies (lead can be carried on clothing or shoes).

Plumbing products, such as pipes and fixtures, may contain lead. Homes built before 1988 are more likely to have plumbing containing lead, but newer homes may also contain lead.

Beginning in 2014, the law reduced the allowable level of lead in these products to a maximum of 0.25 percent to be labeled as “lead free.” Older fixtures may contain higher levels of lead.

The water coming from the Lake Huron Water Treatment Plant of the Great Lakes Water Authority does not contain lead. Lead may enter drinking water when it is in contact with pipes or plumbing that contains lead for several hours.

The EPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20 percent or more of a person’s total exposure to lead. Infants who consume mostly mixed formula can receive 40 percent to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water.

Don’t forget about other sources of lead, such as lead paint, lead dust, and lead in soil. Wash your children’s hands and toys often as they can come into contact with dirt and dust containing lead.

Steps You Can Take to Reduce Your Exposure to Lead in Your Water

1. Continue to use your NSF-certified filters on drinking water taps until further notice.

Filtered water should be used for drinking, cooking, and washing fruits and vegetables. Read the package to make sure the filter is certified to meet NSF53, the NSF standard for particulate lead removal. Be sure to replace a filter device as often as the manufacturer recommends. Contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or visit their Web site at www.nsf.org for water filter performance standards. You can pick up free water filters and replacement cartridges at any one of nine locations, open Monday through Saturday. You can visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater or call 800-662-9278 to find the water resource location nearest you.

2. Run your water to flush out lead. The longer water sits in your home’s pipes, the more lead the water may contain. Even if you are not drinking your water, you should flush water through the faucets in your house to build up a protective coating in your pipes. This coating will help block lead from getting into your water. **Every morning, run unfiltered cold water through drinking water taps for at least five minutes to flush out pipes.**

3. Use filtered water when preparing baby formula. Use filtered water from the cold water tap to make baby formula. Do not use hot water for mixing baby formula.

4. Clean your faucet aerator. The aerator on the end of your faucet is a screen that will catch debris. This debris could include particles of lead. The aerator should be removed and cleaned at least every two weeks. Please visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater for more information on cleaning faucet aerators.

5. Do not boil water to remove lead. Boiling water will not reduce lead levels.

6. Get your child tested. Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about exposure. Please visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater or call 800-662-9278 for more information.

7. Test your water for lead. Call us at 810-787-6537 to find out how to get your water tested for lead. Currently, the MDEQ Laboratory is providing free water testing to all residents of Flint. You can pick up and drop off a testing kit at any one of nine locations, open Monday through Saturday. You can visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater or call 800-662-9278 to find the water resource location nearest you.

8. Identify if your plumbing fixtures contain lead. Most existing homes have leaded brass faucets unless they have been replaced since 2013. Any new connecting plumbing and fittings should also meet the 2014 lead-free definition. If you replace your faucet, buy a new one with pieces that meet the 2014 lead-free definition. These should be certified as lead-free by an independent testing agency. Learn more from the EPA's Publication Center at 800-490-9198 and ask for the document entitled "How to Identify Lead-Free Certification Marks for Drinking Water System & Plumbing Materials" (number 600F13153).

For More Information

Call us at 810-787-6537 or visit our Web site at www.cityofflint.com or the State of Michigan Web site at www.michigan.gov/flintwater. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/lead or contact your healthcare provider.