

# CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY COULD AFFECT YOUR DRINKING WATER

## Fact Sheet

### Upcoming construction activity in your neighborhood could affect your drinking water quality

Our records indicate that some of the pipes connecting homes to the water mains in your neighborhood may be made of lead. Lead service lines can increase your risk of exposure to lead through drinking water, especially when the ground is disturbed close to your home. This increased risk is because the ground disturbance could cause particulates to shake free from inside the underground pipes.

### What you can do

During this construction and until lead service lines are replaced, you should take precautions to minimize exposure to lead in your drinking water by taking the following actions:

#### Everyone can consider using a properly certified water filter.

You may wish to use a filter for water used for drinking and cooking, particularly if you are pregnant or have children under age six in your home. Read packaging to find a filter that meets NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for the reduction of lead, and 42, for the reduction of particulate (Class I). See example to the right. Be sure to maintain and replace the filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to protect water quality.

been tested and certified by the WQA in models OB21, OB32 (Amalfi), OB36 (Color Series), OB41, OB43 (Capri), OB44 (Mini Plus), OB47, OB50 and OB53 against **NSF/ANSI Standards 42 and 53** for the reduction of lead, cadmium, mercury, benzene, chlorine (taste & odor), particulate (Class I) and asbestos.



**Clean your faucet aerator.** As part of routine maintenance, the aerator should be removed at least every six months to rinse out any debris that may include particulate lead. During this upcoming construction activity, check your aerator more often. Start by checking it weekly. If no debris is present, decrease to monthly checks until construction is complete.

**Run your water before drinking.** The more time water has been sitting in your home's pipes, the more lead it may contain. Therefore, if your water has not been used for several hours, run the water before using it for drinking or cooking. This flushes lead-containing water from the pipes. Additional flushing may be required for homes that have been vacant or have a longer service line.

- If you **do not** have a lead service line, run the water for 30 seconds to two minutes, or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature.
- If you **do** have a lead service line, run the water at least five minutes to flush water from both the interior building plumbing and the lead service line.

Running your water before you drink it does not mean you need to waste water. You can run your water by flushing a toilet, watering your lawn or indoor plants, doing laundry, or even washing a load of dishes.

**Use cold water for preparing baby formula.** Do not use water from the hot tap to make baby formula. If you have a lead service line, consider using bottled water or a lead-reducing filter to prepare baby formula.

**Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling will not remove the lead.

