

REDUCING POTENTIAL LEAD EXPOSURE FROM DRINKING WATER

Guidance

We are conducting surveys to identify the homes with lead service lines. Homes with lead service lines have a higher risk of having high lead levels in drinking water.

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 for 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.

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

Use cold water for drinking and cooking. Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap. Lead dissolves more easily into hot water.

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.

Clean your faucet aerator. As part of routine maintenance, the aerator on the end of your faucet should be removed at least every six months to rinse out any debris that may include particulate lead.

Everyone can consider using a water filter to reduce lead in drinking water. Read packaging to find a filter that meets NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for the reduction of lead. Be sure to maintain and replace the filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to protect water quality.

Consider replacing older plumbing fixtures that likely contain lead. Older faucets, fittings, and valves sold before 2014 may contain higher levels of lead, even if marked "lead-free." Faucets, fittings, and valves sold after January 2014 are required to meet a more restrictive "lead-free" definition but may still contain up to 0.25 percent lead.

Flush your cold-water pipes after long periods of non-use. If you are moving into a new home or apartment or residence that has been unoccupied for some time, you should run all faucets an extended period of time, five minutes or more, before using any water for drinking or cooking.

Learn about your drinking water. Read your community's Consumer Confidence Report that is mailed to you each year or find it at your local water utility's website.