



INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER



The Bloomfield Water Department 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 information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

EPA
CONCERNED ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER?

Sources of LEAD in Drinking Water

- Copper Pipe with Lead Solder:** Solder made or installed before 1986 contained high lead levels.
- Faucets:** Fixtures inside your home may contain lead.
- Galvanized Pipe:** Lead particles can attach to the surface of galvanized pipes. Over time, the particles can enter your drinking water, causing elevated lead levels.
- Lead Service Line:** The service line is the pipe that runs from the water main to the home's internal plumbing. Lead service lines can be a major source of lead contamination in water.
- Lead Goose Necks:** Goose necks and pigtails are shorter pipes that connect the lead service line to the main.

Reduce Your Exposure To Lead

- Use only cold water for drinking, cooking and making baby formula. *Boiling water does not remove lead from water.*
- Regularly clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator).
- Consider using a water filter certified to remove lead and know when it's time to replace the filter.
- Before drinking, flush your pipes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes.

To find out for certain if you have lead in drinking water, **have your water tested.**

Replace Your Lead Service Line

Water systems are required to replace lead service lines if a water system cannot meet EPA's Lead Action Level through optimized corrosion control treatment.

Replacement of the lead service line is often the responsibility of both the utility and homeowner.

Homeowners can contact their water system to learn about how to remove the lead service line.

Identify Other Lead Sources In Your Home

Lead in homes can also come from sources other than water. If you live in a home built before 1978, you may want to have your paint tested for lead. Consider contacting your doctor to have your children tested if you are concerned about lead exposure.

For more information, visit: epa.gov/safewater

Reduce Your Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water at Home

Use only cold water for drinking, cooking and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Regularly clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator). Consider using a water filter certified to remove lead and know when it's time to replace the filter. Before drinking, flush your pipes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes.

Can I shower in lead-contaminated water?

Yes. Bathing and showering should be safe for you and your children, even if the water contains lead over EPA's action level. Human skin does not absorb lead in water. This information applies to most situations and to a large majority of the population, but individual circumstances may vary. Some situations, such as cases involving highly corrosive water, may require additional recommendations or more stringent actions. The Bloomfield Water Department is currently sampling our system for corrosive water. However, the City of Newark, from where we purchase our water, presently uses corrosion control measures in their water treatment to eliminate this problem. For more information on our water system and water quality, please visit our website at www.bloomfieldtwpnj.com.

More Information on Lead in Your Water is Available.

All water customers have been mailed educational material on lead in the water supply. This educational information is also available on the Township website at www.bloomfieldtwpnj.com or by calling the Bloomfield Engineering Department at 973-680-4009. Additional information is also available on the U.S Environmental Protection Agency website at www.epa.gov/safewater.

The Bloomfield Water Department will test the water in your home for lead for free!

The Township is offering free lead tests to any resident concerned about their home's lead level. Residents can schedule a test or get additional information by calling 973-680-4009.

Reduce Lead In Your Drinking Water --LET IT RUN

Flush taps before using water from them for drinking or cooking. The best way to rid pipes of water that may contain lead is to let the cold-water faucet run until the water is as cold as it will get. The amount of time this takes will depend upon your home and how its plumbing is arranged--BUT YOU SHOULD ALWAYS RUN THE WATER FOR AT LEAST SIXTY (60) SECONDS. If you know that your house has a lead service line or lead piping you should flush the water for an additional two to three minutes to make sure you are getting fresh water from the township's water main. Flushing the water for up to five minutes should be sufficient in any case in removing lead.

TIPS FOR FLUSHING

- The water you run from drinking water taps does not have to be wasted. You can use this water for cleaning purposes or watering plants.
- You may want to keep a container of drinking water in your refrigerator, so you don't have to run water every time you need it for drinking or cooking.