

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Bloomfield Water Department Fails to Meet Water Quality Parameter (WQP) Levels

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did to correct this situation.

Our system relies upon our supplier, the City of Newark, to provide corrosion control treatment to help prevent lead and/or copper in the pipes from dissolving into the water. The Bloomfield Water Department has no water treatment facilities. Optimal WQPs were established by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). Optimal WQPs are values in which the corrosion control treatment functions most effectively. The corrosion control treatment was deemed optimized, optimal WQPs were established, and the water system must monitor for optimal WQPs per the federal regulations. During the monitoring period of July 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022, we failed to consistently meet treatment technique requirements. WQP results did not meet the optimal WQP control values set by the State for fourteen (14) days in the 6-month monitoring period. Our water system cannot be outside the values set by the State for more than nine (9) days in the 6-month monitoring period.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours.

The Bloomfield Water Department has been and remains in compliance with the lead and copper action levels per the federal regulations meaning 90 percent or more of our lead and copper samples, taken every 6 months since July 1, 2020 to December 31, 2022 remain below the lead action level of 15 parts per billion and copper action level of 1,300 parts per billion. Anyone who submitted a compliance sample during this period were provided the actual test results. Ninety-seven (97) percent of our samples taken from July 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 were below 15 parts per billion. However, since corrosion control treatment is used to protect residents from lead and copper potentially leaching from internal pipes and solder, it is important to be aware of the health effects of lead and copper and steps you may take to reduce your exposure.

- Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level (15 parts per billion) could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.
- Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal physician.

If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about your drinking water.

What should I do?

We remain compliant with the federal lead and copper action levels. However, for informational purposes and out of an abundance of caution, listed below are some steps you can take to reduce your exposure to lead and/or copper:

- **Run water to flush out lead and/or copper.** Run water for 15 – 30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking if it hasn't been used for several hours.
- **Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more quickly into hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
- **Do not boil water.** Boiling water will not reduce lead and/or copper levels.

For additional steps you may take to reduce your exposure to lead in drinking water, see <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/dwc-lead-consumer.html>.

What is being done?

The Bloomfield Water Department has been in contact with the City of Newark, as well as our sampling laboratory, to more closely monitor WQP levels to avoid any extended period of non-compliance with the optimal WQP values. **As of mid-February 2023, we are compliant with WQP levels.**

For more information, please contact the Township Engineer, Paul Lasek at 973-680-4009 or via e-mail at engineering@bloomfieldtwpnj.com or via mail at 1 Municipal Plaza, Room 203 Bloomfield, NJ 07003.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by the Bloomfield Water Department. State Water System ID#: NJ0702001
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