

Township of Bloomfield

Public Forum

What is Bloomfield Doing About Lead?



February 25, 2019

Agenda

- Results of Recent Lead Testing.
- How Does Lead Get Into Our Water?
- Where Does Our Water Come From and is it Safe?
- Information about Lead Testing Procedures.
- Steps Bloomfield is Taking.
- What Can Residents Do?

Results of Recent Lead Testing

- Tested 64 homes (between July 1st- December 31st)
- 9 had elevated levels of lead, and exceeded the purity standard or “action level” of **15 parts per billion (ppb)** established by the EPA.

Important Fact About 15 ppb

- What does “15 ppb” mean?
- Equal to 15 drops of water in an average size swimming pool



Important Fact About 15 ppb

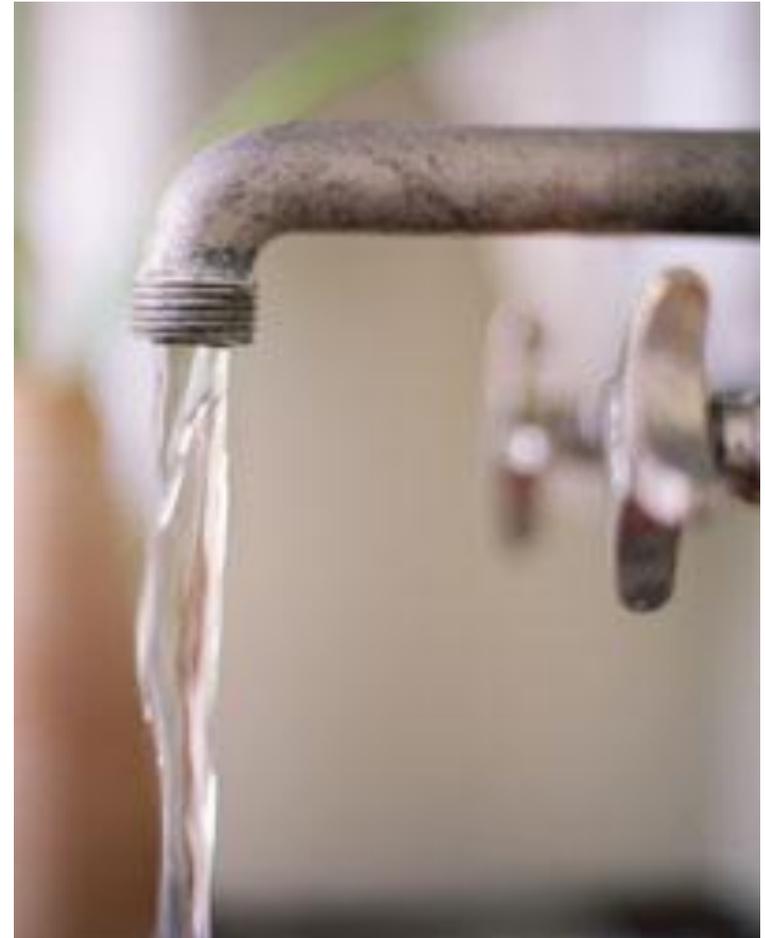
In your drinking water, at 15 ppb:

- You cannot see it.
- You cannot taste it.
- You cannot smell it.

Lead at these levels can only be detected by taking a sample and having it analyzed by a certified laboratory.

Results of System Testing

- Independent testing of the township's water supply passed EPA guidelines for lead.
- This means the issue is with the pipes through which water passes, **particularly in older homes that have not been renovated since 1986.**



Legal Notification

- Residents will be receiving a letter with information about the results and public education per DEP guidelines.
- The letter is written as required by State and Federal governments.

How Does Lead Get Into Our Water?

- Most lead in the home comes from solid objects collecting rust or not being fully insulated.
- **Before 1986**, many pipes, fittings and valves installed during the construction of homes were made with lead or coated in lead.

lead



copper



galvanized

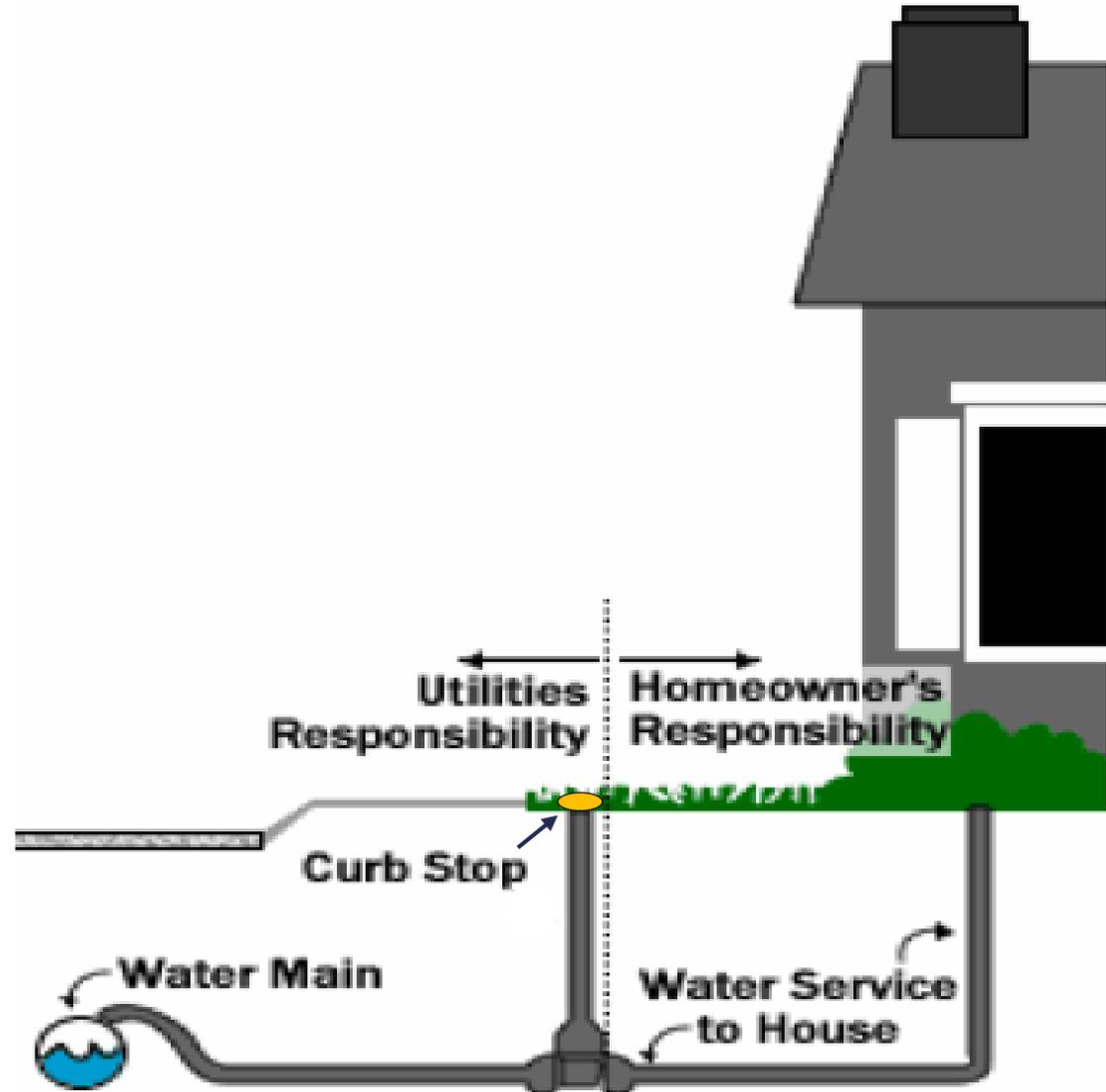


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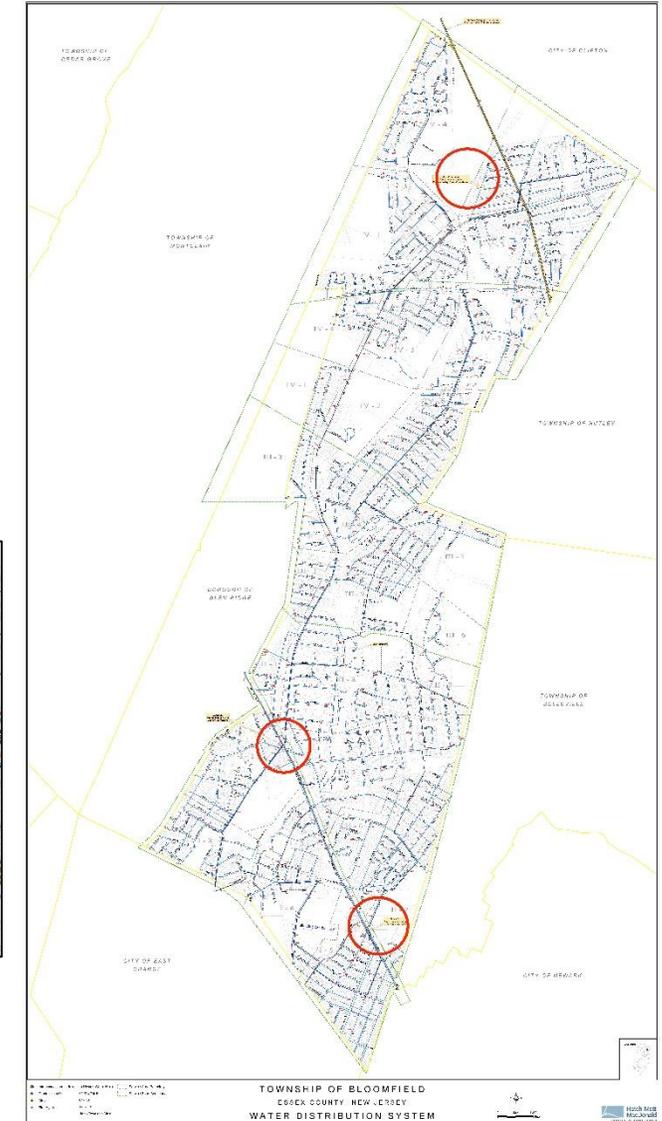
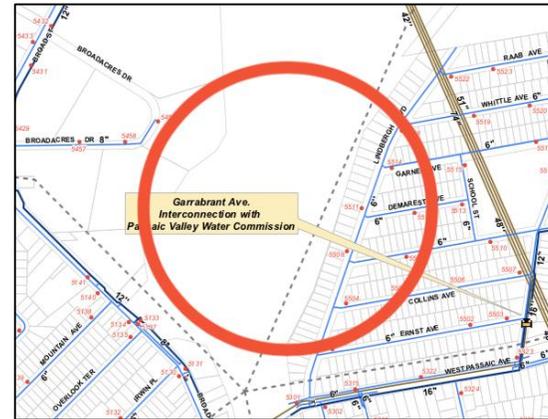
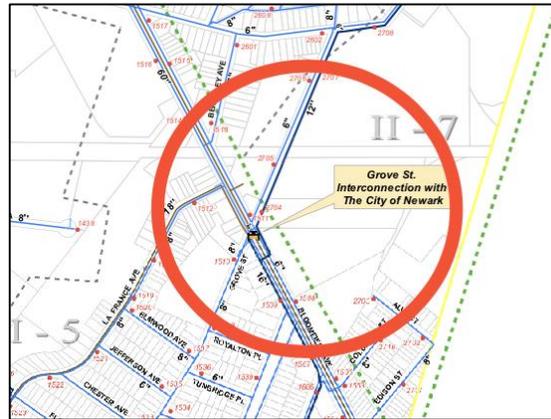
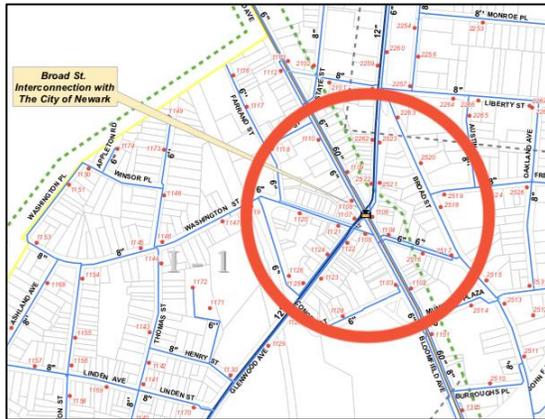


How Does Lead Get Into Our Water?

- In some cases,
 - pipes connecting houses to water main service lines are coated in lead.
 - Lead is not usually found in tap water — **just the lead-coated fixtures.**



Where Does Our Water Come From... Is it Safe?



- At each location, results showed an undetectable amount of lead content - **this is NOT Flint, Michigan.**

Where Does Our Water Come From Is it Safe?

RUNNING YOUR WATER

(ACTUAL Results from the Township's Sampling)

"First Draw" Sample

The water was not used for over six hours before the sample was taken by the resident

"FLUSHED" Sample

Immediately after the resident took the first draw sample, a second sample was taken after running the water for several minutes.

NEWARK AVENUE	61.0	7.0
HOOVER AVENUE	48.0	2.0
LENOX TERRACE	30.0	11.0
HIGHVIEW TERRACE	24.0	3.0
VERNON TERRACE	23.0	<1
NEWARK AVENUE	22.0	15.0
BROAD STREET	20.0	7.0
BALDWIN PLACE	19.0	13.0
FRANKLIN STREET	18.0	<1
ESSEX AVENUE	16.0	8.0

Several rounds of testing by the Township indicate that water at locations that exceed 15 ppb drop - see most of these lead particles reduced after "flushing" water through the pipes for several minutes.

Why Now? What Changed?

- Lead testing requirements have become significantly more strict in recent years.
- Test procedures are designed to discover most likely possible place with elevated lead level.
- Bloomfield's water supplier is working to correct water quality issues.

Steps Bloomfield is Taking

- Lead testing our system. No lead found. Keep testing.
- Replacing Service Line connections to homes that are found to contain Lead.



Steps Bloomfield is Taking

- Replacement of lead service lines when we find them.
- So far of our 11,700 connections, found 73 with lead connection pipes.
- To date, replaced almost 40% of known lead service lines and have plans to replace the other 60%.
- Working with homeowners of properties with elevated lead levels results and providing guidance on replacement of lead-based home plumbing fixtures.

Steps Bloomfield is Taking

- Providing free water filter kits. 1,400 so far this year.
- Our water meter replacement program starts this year. We will be inspecting for any lead pipes during the installation.

Steps Bloomfield is Taking

- Constructing alternate water supply. Construction to start this year.
- The Health Department staff will provide FREE lead blood level for all Bloomfield children to test for lead poisoning and assist with case management.

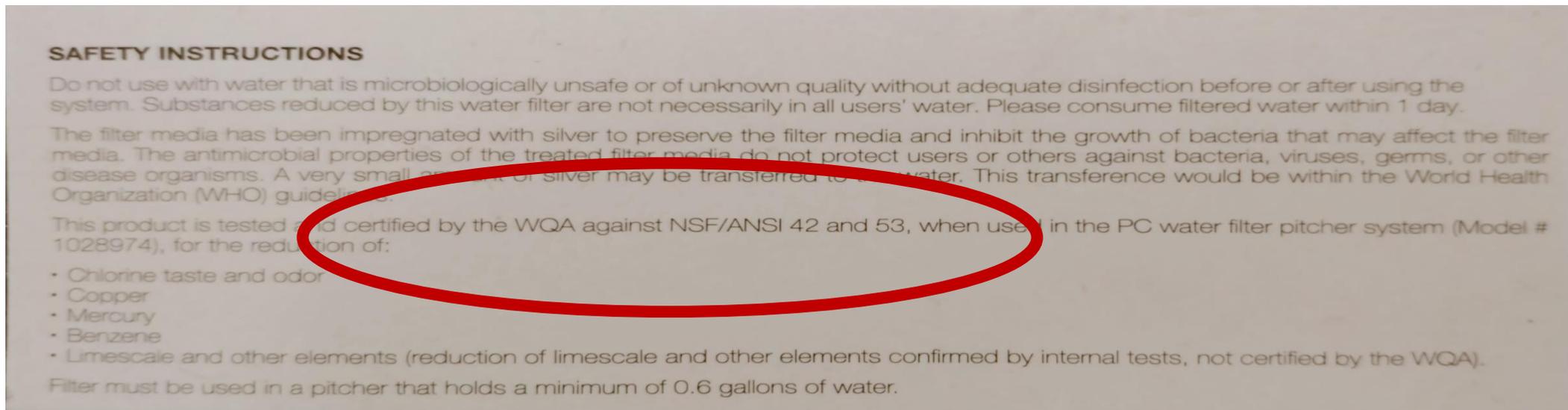
What Can Residents Do?

- Run their water for 15-30 seconds before drinking to flush out lead built up in the faucet. It helps.
- Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.



What Can Residents Do?

- Purchase household filters such as under the sink filters, or carafe filters.
- Make sure filter meets the standards of NSF Standard 53!



What Can Residents Do?

- Boiling water does NOT reduce lead.
- Parents of young children should have their children tested for lead exposure. This can be done for free by the Bloomfield Health Department staff or by your healthcare provider.





Questions and Answers

Mayor Michael Venezia

Township Administrator Matthew Watkins

Township Engineer Paul Lasek

Township Director of Health and Human Services Karen Lore

Health Officer Mike Fitzpatrick