

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

THE VILLAGE OF LAWRENCE HAS EXCEEDED THE ACTION LEVEL FOR LEAD. Lead can cause serious health and development 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.

This notice is brought to you by The Village of Lawrence.

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Health Effects of Lead

Lead can cause serious health and development problems. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones, and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development. Although other sources of lead exposure exist, such as lead paint, and lead contaminated dust, the Village of Lawrence is contacting you to reduce your risk of exposure to lead in drinking water. If you have questions about other sources of lead exposure, please contact the Van Buren\Cass District Health Department at 269-621-3143 ext. 1313.

Sources of Lead

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. Drinking water is one possible source of lead exposure due to the widespread use of lead in plumbing materials. EPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20 percent or more of a person's potential exposure to lead. Infants who consume mostly mixed formula can receive 40 percent to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water.

The action level is 15 parts per billion (ppb) for lead and 1.3 parts per million (ppm) for copper. The action level is a measure of corrosion control effectiveness. It is not a health-based standard. To meet the requirements of the Lead and Copper Rule, 90 percent of the samples collected must be below the action level. The following table summarizes the lead and copper data collected during the most recent monitoring period:

Most Recent Sampling Information

Action Levels	90 th Percentile Value	Range of results (minimum-maximum)	# of samples used for 90 th Percentile
Lead 15 parts per billion (ppb)	31 ppb	0-127 ppb	20
Copper 1.3 parts per million (ppm)	0.2 ppm	0-0.8 ppm	20

Lead can enter drinking water when pipes, solder, home/building interior plumbing, fittings and fixtures that contain lead corrode. Corrosion is the dissolving, or wearing away, of metal caused by a chemical reaction between water and your plumbing. Several factors affect the amount of lead that enters the water, including the water quality characteristics (acidity and alkalinity), the amount of lead in the pipes, plumbing and/or fixtures, and the frequency of water use in the home.

Some plumbing products such as service lines, pipes and fixtures may contain lead. The infographic below demonstrates where sources of lead in drinking water could be in your home. Older homes may have more lead unless the service line and/or plumbing has been replaced. Homes built...

- **Before the 1960s** are more likely to have lead service lines, lead pipes, fixtures, and/or solder that contain lead.
- **Before 1988** are likely to have fixtures and/or solder that contains lead.

- **Between 1996 and 2014** are likely to have fixtures that contain up to eight percent lead but were labelled “lead-free.”
- **In 2014 or later** still have potential lead exposure. “Lead free” was redefined to reduce lead content to a maximum of 0.25 percent lead in fixtures and fittings. Fixtures that are certified to meet NSF Standard 61 meet this more restrictive definition of “lead free.”

Leaded solder and leaded fittings and fixtures are still available in stores to use for non-drinking water applications. Be careful to select the appropriate products for repairing or replacing drinking water plumbing in your home.

Galvanized plumbing can be a potential source of lead. Galvanized plumbing can absorb lead from upstream sources like a lead service line. Even after the lead service line has been removed, galvanized plumbing can continue to release lead into drinking water over time. Homes that are served by a lead service line should consider replacing galvanized plumbing inside the home.

Drinking water is only one source of lead exposure. Other common sources of lead exposure are lead-based paint, and lead-contaminated dust or soil. Because lead can be carried on hands, clothing, and/or shoes, sources of exposure to lead can include the workplace and certain hobbies. Wash your children’s hands and toys often as they can come in contact with dirt and dust containing lead. In addition, lead can be found in certain types of pottery, pewter, food, and cosmetics. If you have questions about other sources of lead exposure, please contact the Van Buren\Cass District Health Department at 269-621-3143 ext. 1313

Particulate Lead

Lead results can vary between tests. A single test result is not a reliable indicator of drinking water safety. Two different types of lead can be present in drinking water, soluble lead and particulate lead. Soluble lead is lead that dissolves because of a chemical reaction between water and plumbing that contains lead. Particulate lead is dislodged scale and sediment released into the water from the sides of the plumbing and can vary greatly between samples. Disturbances, such as replacing a water meter, construction and excavation activities, or home plumbing repairs can cause particulates to shake free from inside pipes and plumbing. Particulate lead is a concern because the lead content can be very high. Lead particulate could be present in a single glass of water, but not present in water sampled just before or after. During construction, monthly aerator cleaning and using a filter certified to reduce lead are recommended to reduce particulate lead exposure.

Check whether your home has a lead service line.

Homes with lead service lines have an increased risk of having high lead levels in drinking water. Please contact the Village of Lawrence, for more information about your home’s service line.

Steps You Can Take to Reduce Your Exposure to Lead in Your Water

1. **Run your water to flush out lead.** 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.
 - 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.

Additional flushing may be required for homes that have been vacant or have a longer service line. Your water utility can help you determine if longer flushing times are needed.

2. **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.
3. **Use cold water for preparing baby formula.** Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula. If you have a lead service line, consider using bottled water or a filter certified to reduce lead to prepare baby formula.
4. **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead levels.
5. **Consider using a filter to reduce lead in drinking water.** Public health recommends that any household with a child or pregnant woman use a certified lead filter to reduce lead from their drinking



System Tested and Certified by NSF International against NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for the reduction of Lead.

water. Look for filters that are tested and certified to NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for lead reduction. Some filter options include a pour-through pitcher or faucet-mount systems. If the label does not specifically mention lead reduction, check the Performance Data Sheet included with the

device. Be sure to maintain and replace the filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to protect water quality. If your household has a child or pregnant woman and are not able to afford the cost of a lead filter, please contact the Van Buren\Cass District Health Department at 269-621-3143 ext. 1313.

6. **Consider purchasing bottled water.** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates bottled water. The bottled water standard for lead is 5 ppb.
7. **Get your child tested.** Please contact your healthcare provider, to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about exposure. IF you have questions about blood lead level testing or the results of your child's test, please contact the Van Buren\Cass District Health Department at 269-621-3143 ext. 1313.
8. **Identify 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. When purchasing new plumbing materials, it is important to look for materials that are certified to meet NSF standard 61. The EPA prepared a brochure that explains the various markings that can indicate that materials meet the new "lead free" definition: <https://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPDF.cgi?Dockkey=P100LVYK.txt>.
9. **Clean your aerator.** The aerator on the end of your faucet is a screen that will catch debris. This debris could include particulate lead. The aerator should be removed at least every six months to rinse out any debris.
10. **Test your water for lead.** Call us at 269-674-8161 to find out how to get your water tested for lead.

What Happened? What is Being Done?

The Village is required by EGLE to collect lead and copper samples from 20 homes every six months. These homes were selected to meet the proper requirements for lead and copper sampling. To find homes that have lead-containing plumbing materials, criteria included age of home, service line material, and interior building plumbing materials.

On July 15, 2020, the Village of Lawrence received the lead and copper test results back from the 20 homes. Three of the homes had elevated lead levels. When more than 10% of the homes sampled have elevated results then the water supply has an Action Level exceedance of lead and is required to .

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (“EGLE”) evaluates compliance with the Action Level based on the 90th percentile of all lead and copper results collected in this round of sampling. The lead 90th percentile for the village of Lawrence’s water supply is 31 parts per billion (ppb), which exceeds the Action Level of 15ppb. Exceeding the lead Action Level triggers additional actions including, but not limited to, increased investigative sampling of water quality and educational outreach to customers in accordance with the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act. The Village is working closely with EGLE and Van Buren/Cass District Health Department staff to remedy the situation.

Sampling has confirmed that the three wells that provide the Village of Lawrence’s drinking water do not contain lead. The village of Lawrence does not have any lead service lines. However, lead can enter drinking water when it is in contact with interior building plumbing (pipes, solder, fittings and fixtures that contain lead).

The Village will also be working with Elhorn Engineering to adjust its water treatment to improve corrosion control. This will help will reduce the leaching of any lead from household plumbing into the water supply.

The Village will also be working with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department to provide faucet-mount or pitcher style filters to any household with a child or pregnant woman that is not able to afford the cost of a lead filter. To find out if you qualify, please contact the Van Buren\Cass District Health Department at 269-621-3143 ext. 1313.

For More Information

If you are operating a food establishment such as a store, restaurant, bar, or food manufacturing establishment, please visit this page, www.michigan.gov/mdardleadinfo for specific information for food establishments.

Call us at the Village Hall at 269-674-8161 or (if applicable) visit our website at The Village of Lawrence www.lawrencemi.org or www.michigan.gov/deqleadpublicadvisory . For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA’s Web site at www.epa.gov/lead, call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your healthcare provider.

Is it OK to use lead-containing water to wash my hands?		
Yes! Human skin does not easily absorb lead from water.		
	<p>Even if you have lead in your drinking water, you can wash your hands with water that is not filtered or flushed.</p> <p>Public Health advises residents to wash hands often and for at least 20 seconds with soap and water to help prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).</p>	<p>You can use water that has not been filtered or flushed for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Showering or bathing (avoid swallowing the water) ○ Washing hands, dishes, or clothes ○ Cleaning
<p>To learn more please visit, Michigan.gov/coronavirus or Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe</p>		

CONCERNED ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER?

Sources of **LEAD** in Drinking Water

