

# Important Information About Lead in Your Drinking Water

Trenton Water Works (TWW) found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings.

Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and children 6 years and younger. Please read this notice closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

## Health Effects of Lead

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. 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.

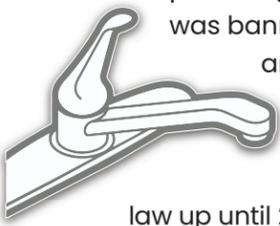
Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.



## Sources of Lead in Drinking Water

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. Drinking water is one possible source of lead exposure. EPA estimates that 10 to 20% of a person's potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water. Infants who consume mostly formula mixed with lead-containing water can receive 40 to 60% of their exposure to lead from drinking water.

In Trenton, lead was commonly used in water service lines until 1960 and for indoor plumbing solder until 1986 when it was banned. Brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," may also contribute to lead in drinking water. The law up until 2014 allowed brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 8% lead to be labeled as "lead free." Current standards for "lead free" fixtures allow for no more than 0.25% of lead content.



**The Delaware River is the water supply source for TWW's Filtration Plant. When treated water leaves TWW's Filtration Plant, it is lead free. The water mains in the street that transport water from the Filtration Plant are made mostly of iron and steel and do not add any lead to the drinking water.**

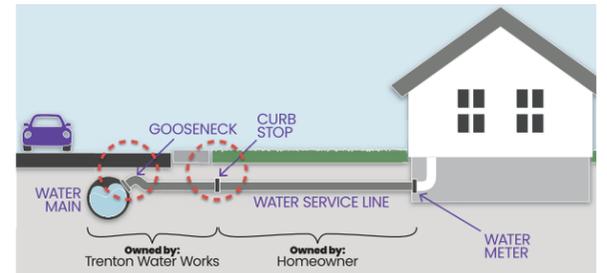
In TWW's service area, galvanized steel pipe lined with lead was commonly used until 1960 for water service lines which transport the water from the street to homes and buildings. When water is in contact with these pipes, lead solder or plumbing fixtures that contain lead for several hours, the lead may enter the drinking water. Homes built before 1986 are more likely to have lead pipes or lead solder than newer homes. The lead from a home's individual service line or plumbing effects only the tap water inside that home since water travels only one way in home plumbing.

## STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO REDUCE YOUR EXPOSURE TO LEAD IN YOUR WATER

- 1. Run your water to flush out lead.** Run water for 1 to 3 minutes to flush lead from interior plumbing 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.
- 2. Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
- 3. Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead.
- 4. Look for alternative sources or treatment of water.** You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at **800-NSF-8010** or **nsf.org** for information on performance standards for water filters. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to protect water quality.
- 5. Test your water for lead.** Please contact the Trenton Water Works at **609-989-3055** or by email at **twleadprogram@trentonnj.org** to find out how to get your water tested for lead at a local laboratory.
- 6. Get your child's blood tested.** Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about exposure.
- 7. Identify and replace your water service line, plumbing with lead solder or plumbing fixtures containing lead.**
  - Find out how to check your water service line material at **twleadprogram.com/check-your-line**
  - Purchase EPA-approved lead check swabs to determine if you have lead solder or brass fittings with high lead content. For more information, visit **twleadprogram.com**
  - Visit **www.nsf.org** to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures

## What Happened? What is Being Done?

**During the monitoring period of July 2018 to December 2018, TWW conducted routine water sample testing for lead.** Lead levels at customers' taps in the distribution system exceeded the Lead Action Level of 15 parts per billion (ppb) for the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile based on samples of water in homes with lead service lines and/or copper piping with lead solder.



**TWW continues its efforts to upgrade the water treatment process and water distribution system to meet the State and Federal drinking water regulations and to make the drinking water less corrosive.**

TWW is taking immediate and long-term measures to minimize lead levels throughout the service area which includes Trenton, and parts of Hamilton, Ewing, Hopewell and Lawrence. Specifically, TWW is currently:

- Replacing lead service lines from the water main to the curb for those who have previously replaced the homeowner's side to copper.
- Undertaking a Lead Service Line Replacement Program to prioritize the replacement of approximately 2,600 lead services by mid-2020, including the portion of the service line, from the curb to meter, owned by the homeowner. The remaining lead services will be replaced in later phases of the program. Visit **www.twleadprogram.com** to learn more about this program.
- Expediting the construction of a temporary corrosion control treatment (CCT) system which will add zinc orthophosphate to the water system. The addition of zinc orthophosphate will help minimize the process of lead leaching into the water from the service pipes and lead solder. The temporary CCT system will treat water that reaches the majority of TWW customers in the short term until a long term plan for corrosion control treatment for 100% of the water system is implemented.
- Regularly flushing and cleaning the water distribution system.
- Holding public meetings throughout the service area to answer TWW customer questions.

**Trenton Water Works is committed to providing safe and clean drinking water to its customers**

For more information, contact Trenton Water Works:

phone: **609-989-3055**

email: **twleadprogram@trentonnj.org**

web: **www.twleadprogram.com**

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site **epa.gov/lead**

