



CITY OF ST. CLAIR

PUBLIC NOTICE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Reporting Requirements Not Met for City of St. Clair

We are required to complete an inventory of service lines materials indicating which service lines are made of lead; galvanized previously connected to lead; unknown; or non-lead materials and report the inventory to the state by October 16, 2024. We needed additional time to ensure each and every address was coded properly to complete the report. As a result, we were unable to submit the inventory timely. We understand lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children so it is important for us to communicate to you that in our investigation of service lines ZERO were found to be lead thus far. However, there are service lines on the inventory identified as "galvanized previously connected to lead" and "lead status unknown." Lead status unknown means the type of material used to service addresses is currently unknown. People served by those lines received additional information with this notice.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours because exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems. These are serious health concerns that we feel need to be communicated.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time. This is not an emergency. There is no action being requested of you. In our investigation of service lines, ZERO were found to be lead thus far. Even though public health was not impacted, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, and what we did to correct the situation. Additionally, it is important to share steps you can take to reduce your exposure to lead in drinking water because there may be other sources of lead in interior plumbing, faucets, and fixtures.

What is being done?

The City of St. Clair has already corrected this issue by completing and submitting the necessary report to the State of Michigan.

For more information, please contact City of St. Clair, Quentin Bishop at 810-329-7121 or by mail to 547 N. Carney Drive, St. Clair, Michigan 48079.

We take public health seriously so for more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/lead> or contact your health care provider.

We want to provide this notice to the public so 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.

Steps you can Take to Reduce your Exposure to Lead in your Water

Below are recommended actions you may take, separately or in combination, to reduce your exposure to lead in your drinking water.

- **Consider using a lead-reducing filter.** The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recommends Michigan households use a certified lead-reducing drinking water filter if your home has or if you are uncertain if it has a source of lead, such as one of the following:
 - A lead service line, or galvanized previously connected to lead service line, carrying water from the street to your residence.
 - Lead or galvanized plumbing.
 - Copper plumbing with lead solder before 1988 (EGLE recommendation).
 - Old faucets and fittings that were sold before 2014.
- Use the filter until you are able to remove sources of household lead plumbing, such as:
 - Replace pre-2014 faucets.
 - Get a lead inspection and replace needed plumbing.
- Look for filters that are tested and certified to NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for lead reduction and NSF/ANSI Standard 42 for particulate reduction (Class I).
- For filters to work properly, follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- **Run your water to flush out lead-containing water.** 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. Homes with a lead service line, or galvanized service line that was previously connected to lead, should run the water for at least five minutes to flush water from your home or building's plumbing and the lead service line.
- **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.
- **Boiling water does not remove lead from water.** Filter cold water, then boil the filtered water as necessary.
- **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.
- **Check for other sources of lead.** In addition to service lines, other plumbing in your home may contain lead and could increase the levels of lead in your drinking water. These may include faucets, valves, and soldered joints. It is recommended that homeowners contact a licensed plumber and have a plumbing assessment done to determine if your in-home plumbing is a source of lead in your drinking water.
- **Test your water for lead.** If you wish to get your drinking water tested, call your water supply or use a certified lab. To find a certified lab, go to Michigan.gov/EGLElab and click on "Certifications."
- **Learn about construction in your neighborhood.** Construction may cause more lead to be released from a lead service line or galvanized service line if present. Contact us to find out about any construction or maintenance work that may disturb your service line.