

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

- A) Collinsville Water Department found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings. Lead can cause serious health 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.
  
- B) Health Effects of Lead. 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 women 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.
  
- C) Sources of Lead
  - i) Lead is a common metal found throughout the environment in lead-based paint; air; soil; household dust; food; certain types of pottery, porcelain, and pewter; and water.
  
  - ii) Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like rivers and lakes. Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and household plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass and chrome plated brass faucets, and in some cases, pipes made of lead that connect your house to the water main (service lines). In 1986, Congress banned the use of lead solder containing greater than 0.2% lead, and restricted the lead content of faucets, pipes and other plumbing materials to 8.0%.
  
  - iii) Lead exposure can also result from lead-based paint; air; soil; household dust; food; certain types of pottery, porcelain, and pewter; and water.
  
- D) If a water test indicates that the drinking water drawn from a tap in your home contains lead above 15 ppb, then you should take the following precautions:

- i) Let the water run from the tap before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in a faucet has gone unused for more than six hours. The longer water resides in your home's plumbing the more lead it may contain. Flushing the tap means running the cold water faucet until the water gets noticeably colder, usually about three minutes. If your house has a lead service line to the water main, you may have to flush the water for a longer time, perhaps five minutes, before drinking. Although toilet flushing or showering flushes water through a portion of your home's plumbing system, you still need to flush the water in each faucet before using it for drinking or cooking.
- ii) Try not to cook with or drink water from the hot water tap. Hot water can dissolve more lead more quickly than cold water. If you need hot water, draw water from the cold tap and heat it on the stove. **DO NOT USE HOT TAP WATER TO PREPARE BABY FORMULA.**
- iii) Boiling water does not reduce lead levels.
- iv) Parents should have their child's blood tested for lead.

#### Collinsville Water Department

- E) For more information, call us at **(618) 346-5219 ext 3**, or visit our Web site at <https://www.collinsvilleil.org/departments/public-works/water-department>. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit USEPA's Web site at [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead) or contact your health care provider.
- F) As of November 2025, The City of Collinsville has 13 lead service lines remaining out of 12,619 connections. The city is on schedule to replace all 13 lead service lines over the new few years at no cost to the property residents or owners. If a customer has a private side lead service line and decides to replace it, the City of Collinsville will replace the system side free of charge.
- G) Be aware when choosing plumbing components that the terms **No lead, Low-Lead, & Lead-Free** all may contain up to **0.25%** lead. Low-lead is a previous standard that allowed up to 8.0% lead in plumbing components.