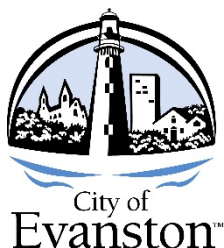


This notice contains important information about the water service that serves your property and may affect your rights. We encourage you to have this notice translated in full into a language you understand and before you make any decisions that may be required under this notice. The City can assist you in doing so.



Public Works Agency  
Water Production Bureau  
555 Lincoln Street  
Evanston, Illinois 60201  
T 847.448.4311  
TTY 847.448.8064  
[www.cityofevanston.org](http://www.cityofevanston.org)

You are receiving this **No Replacement Letter** because the City of Evanston (the City) has determined that your property is being serviced by a lead water service line or suspected lead water service line, and you refuse to grant the City access to the property for the purpose of identifying or replacing the service line. The City may still replace the portion of the service line that is the City's property.

Through Illinois Public Act 102-0613, the City of Evanston is prohibited from partially replacing any lead service lines unless the property owner refuses to participate. The City is required to maintain records of any persons who refuse to grant access to the interior of a building for the purpose of identifying service line material or completing a lead service line replacement.

With this letter, you are receiving notice of the following:

- 1) Information concerning the best practices for preventing exposure to or risk of consumption of lead in drinking water, including a recommendation to flush water lines during and after the completion of the repair or replacement work and to clean faucet aerator screens
- 2) Information regarding the dangers of lead exposure to young children and pregnant women.

The work may result in sediment, possibly containing lead from the service line, being released into the building's water. By signing this letter, you are accepting the risks of keeping a suspected or confirmed lead service line to bring water into your property. You are refusing the City access for the replacement of the privately-owned portion of your service line. You will be required to disclose the service line material to any potential buyers when the property is sold.

If you are the owner of a nonresidential building or a residence operating as rental properties and refuse access, you (the property owner) are responsible for installing and maintaining point-of-use filters certified by an accredited third-party certification body to NSF/ANSI 53 and NSF/ANSI 42 for the reduction of lead and particulate at all fixtures intended to supply water for the purposes of drinking, food preparation, or making baby formula. The filters shall continue to be supplied by the property owner until such time that the property owner has affected the remaining portions of the lead service line to be replaced.

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*I refuse the City of Evanston access to my property for the purpose of service line material identification or lead service line replacement. My known or suspected lead service line will remain in use and I waive any and all claims and damages related to illness or injury against the City of Evanston.*

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(Property Owner Signature)

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(Date)

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(Print Name & Address)

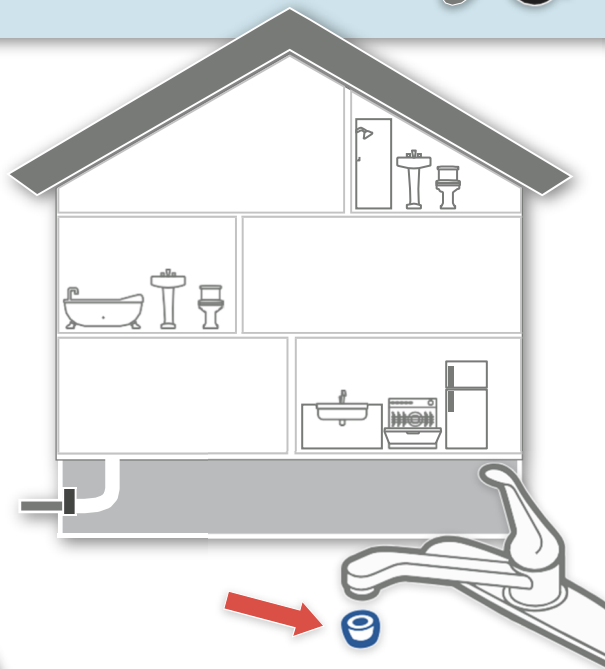
# Flushing After your Lead Service Line Replacement

After your lead service line has been replaced, it is important to flush all of the pipes in your house. Flushing will remove any lead that may have entered the pipes in your house during construction. You should flush all interior plumbing the same day or before the next time you use your water. **DO NOT USE** hot water until the initial flushing is completed to prevent lead particles from settling in your hot water tank.



## Flushing Instructions

1. Find all the faucets that will drain, including the basement and all floors in your house.
2. Remove aerators and screens whenever possible, including the shower heads, from all faucets you plan to flush. Include the laundry tubs, hose-bibs, bathtubs, and showers as flushing points.
3. After all the aerators are off, open the faucets in the basement or lowest floor in the house. Leave all faucets running at highest rate possible, using cold water.
4. After the faucets are all open in lowest floor, open the faucets on next highest floor of the house. Continue until faucets are open on all floors.
5. After all faucets are opened, leave the water running for at least 30 minutes.
6. After 30 minutes, turn off the first faucet you opened; continue to turn off other faucets in the same order you turned them on.
7. Clean aerators/screens at each faucet. You may need to replace screens/aerators if too old or worn. Conduct a 30 minute flush every other week for three months.



## Cleaning Your Aerator

1. Remove faucet aerators and clean out any particles that may have accumulated there. The aerator is usually at the tip of the faucet and can be screwed off to clean.
2. After your lead service line is replaced, clean debris from aerators and screens once a month for six months. After six months, clean debris twice a year.

## Daily Flushing

Daily flushes should continue for six months after your lead service line is replaced as lead particles can get into the pipes from construction. Flush water through the plumbing in your house for 5 minutes each morning (or after an extended period of no water usage) before drinking.



**NOTE:** Taking a shower, running the dishwasher or flushing a toilet will flush your lines.

## Filters

Continue to use your point-of-use filters for at least 6 months after a lead service line replacement. Remember to change the cartridges as needed.

# LET'S GET THE LEAD OUT!



## Is Lead in Your Plumbing?

Today, there's growing awareness that some homes have lead in water pipes, fixtures and plumbing. Lead presents health concerns for people of all ages and particularly for infants and young children. In children, low levels of exposure have been linked to learning disabilities, behavioral problems and other issues.

### Where water meets lead

The water leaving the treatment plant and traveling through water mains is almost always free of lead. However, lead is sometimes present in pipes connecting older homes to the water system or in fixtures and home plumbing. Water utilities adjust the water's chemistry at the treatment plant to minimize the possibility of lead dissolving into the water, but there are additional steps you can take at home.

## What You Can Do

### Have your water tested

Contact your water provider to see if it has home testing options available. If not, it can help you find a certified laboratory to test your water. Tests typically run between 15 and 50 dollars.



### Find out if you have a lead service line

Your utility may or may not know if you have a lead service line. If not, you can find out yourself or with the help of a licensed plumber. Service lines typically enter the home in the basement or crawl space. If the pipe is lead, it will have a dull finish that shines brightly when scratched with a key or coin. Using a magnet can also help you identify a lead pipe, because even a strong magnet will not cling to lead.

### Have your plumbing inspected

A licensed plumber can inspect both your service line and other materials in contact with your drinking water. Lead solders, pipe fittings and brass fixtures can be potential problems.

## Protect Your Household

There are steps you can take right away to reduce the possibility of lead in your water:

### ■ Run the Tap Before Use

Lead levels are likely at their highest when water has been sitting in the pipe for several hours. Clear this water from your pipes

by running the cold water for several minutes—which allows you to draw fresh water from the main. Your water provider or plumber can help you assess the right length of time.



■ **Clean Aerators**—Aerators are small attachments at the tips of faucets which regulate the flow of water. They can accumulate small particles of lead in their screens. It's a good idea to remove your aerators at least monthly and clean them out.





■ **Use Cold Water-** Begin with cold water for drinking, cooking or preparing baby formula, because hot water dissolves lead more quickly.

■ **Filter the Water-** Many home water filters are effective at removing lead. If you purchase a filter, make sure it is certified for lead removal and that you maintain it properly. Find out more on filter certification at [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org).



### For More Information

There are a number of resources available for more information about lead, water filtration systems and other related issues.

**CDC-Lead in Drinking Water-** The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has information on lead's health effects and tips for protection from water and other common sources of exposure. [www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead](http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead)

**Drinktap.org-** A public service of the American Water Works Association, [drinktap.org](http://drinktap.org) was created to provide people information about a variety of water-related issues, from water quality to conservation.

**Epa.gov/lead-** The federal agency responsible for the safety of America's drinking water, EPA hosts a comprehensive website that addresses all sources of lead in the home.

**Nsf.org-** NSF International provides consumer information about water filter capabilities, including claims to reduce lead. The NSF can also be reached at 800.NSF.8010.



**American Water Works Association**

*Dedicated to the World's Most Important Resource®*

4858/2016

# Lead

## Keep Your Water Safe

Test Your Water  
Check Pipes and Plumbing  
Protect Your Family  
Get the Lead Out!



## Let's Get the Lead Out!

The surest way to protect against lead in water is to get the lead out altogether.

### ■ Replace lead service lines

If you have a lead service line, talk to a licensed plumber about getting it replaced. Contact your utility to see if there are payment options or rebate programs.

### ■ Replace other plumbing that contains lead

Hire a licensed plumber to look for and replace lead solder, fixtures or other potential sources of lead.

# **Lead Poisoning And Your Children**



## **Lead awareness and your children**

There are approximately half a million U.S. children ages 1-5 with blood lead levels above 5 micrograms per deciliter ( $\mu\text{g/dL}$ ), the reference level at which CDC recommends public health actions be initiated. You may have lead around your building without knowing it because you can't see, taste, or smell lead. You may have lead in the dust, paint, or soil in and around your home, or in your drinking water or food. Because it does not break down naturally, lead can remain a problem until it is removed.

Before we knew how harmful it could be, lead was used in paint, gasoline, water pipes, and many other products. Now that we know the dangers of lead, today house paint is almost lead-free, leaded gasoline has been phased out, and household plumbing is no longer made with lead materials in the United States.

### **How lead affects your child's health**

The long-term effects of lead in a child can be severe. They include learning disabilities, decreased growth, hyperactivity, impaired hearing, and even brain damage. If caught early, these effects can be limited by reducing exposure to lead and/or by medical treatment. If you are pregnant, avoid exposing yourself to lead. Lead can pass through your body to your baby. The good news is that there are simple things you can do to help protect your family.

#### **1. Get your child tested.**

Even children who appear healthy may have high levels of lead. You can't tell if a child has lead poisoning unless you have him or her tested. A blood test takes only 10 minutes, and results should be ready within a week.



Blood tests are usually recommended for:

- Children at ages one and two.
- Children or other family members who have been exposed to high levels of lead.
- Children who should be tested under your state or local screening plan.

To find out where to have your child tested, call your doctor or local health clinic. They can explain what the test results mean, and if more testing will be needed.

#### **2. Keep it clean.**

Ordinary dust and dirt may contain lead. Children can swallow lead or breathe lead contaminated dust if they play in dust or dirt and then put their fingers or toys in their mouths, or if they eat without washing their hands first.

- Keep the areas where your children play as dust-free and clean as possible.
- Wash pacifiers and bottles after they fall on the floor. Keep extras handy.
- Clean floors, window frames, window sills, and other surfaces weekly. Use a mop, sponge, or paper towel with warm water and a general all-purpose cleaner. **REMEMBER: NEVER MIX AMMONIA AND BLEACH PRODUCTS TOGETHER SINCE THEY CAN FORM A DANGEROUS GAS.**
- Thoroughly rinse sponges and mop heads after cleaning dirty and dusty areas.
- Wash toys and stuffed animals regularly.
- Make sure your children wash their hands before meals, nap time, and bedtime.

#### **3. Reduce the risk from lead-based paint.**

Most homes built before 1978 contain lead-based paint. This paint could be on window frames, walls, the outside of your house, or other surfaces. Tiny pieces of peeling or chipping paint are dangerous if eaten. Lead-based paint in good condition is not usually a problem except in places where painted surfaces rub against each other and create dust. (For example, when you open a window, the painted surfaces rub against each other.)





- Make sure your child does not chew on anything covered with lead-based paint, such as painted window sills, cribs, or playpens.
- Don't burn painted wood. It may contain lead.

#### **4. Don't remove lead-based paint yourself.**

Families have been poisoned by scraping or sanding lead-based paint because these activities generate large amounts of lead dust. Lead dust from repairs or renovations of older buildings can remain in a building long after the work has been completed. Heating paint may release lead into the air. When renovations and repairs are done in your home, make sure the firm is certified and the workers are trained to follow lead-safe work practices. Don't try to remove lead-based paint yourself.

If your home was built before 1978, have your home tested for lead and learn about potential lead hazards. Fix any hazards that you may have. You can get your home checked in one or both of the following ways:

- A paint inspection — Tells you the lead content of every different type of painted surface in your home, but does not tell you if the paint is a hazard or how to deal with it. This is most appropriate when you are buying a home or signing a lease, before you renovate, and to help you determine how to maintain your home for lead safety.
- A risk assessment - an on-site investigation that determines the presence, type, severity, and location of lead-based paint hazards (including lead hazards in paint, dust, and soil) and provides suggested ways to control and reduce the hazards.

- Federal law requires contractors that disturb painted surfaces in homes, child care facilities, and schools built before 1978 to be certified and follow specific work practices. They are also required to give homeowners or tenants a copy of EPA lead brochure "The Lead-Safe Certified Guide to Renovate Right" before renovating six square feet or more of painted surfaces in interior rooms or more than 20 square feet of painted surfaces in exterior projects or window replacement or demolition in homes built before 1978.

All occupants, especially children and pregnant women, should leave the building until all work is finished and a thorough cleanup has been done.

#### **5. Don't bring lead dust into your home.**

If you work in construction, demolition or painting, with batteries, or in a radiator repair shop or lead factory, or if your hobby involves lead, you may unknowingly bring lead into your home on your hands or clothes. You may also be tracking in lead from the soil around your home. Soil very close to homes may be contaminated from lead-based paint on the outside of the building. Soil by roads or highways may be contaminated from years of exhaust fumes from cars and trucks that used leaded gas.

- If you work with lead in your job or hobby, change your clothes and shower before you go home.
- Encourage your children to play in sand or grassy areas instead of dirt which sticks to fingers and toys. Try to keep your children from eating dirt, and make sure they wash their hands when they come inside.



#### **6. Learn more about lead in drinking water.**

The most common sources of lead in drinking water are lead pipes, faucets and fixtures. Lead pipes are more likely to be found in older cities and homes built before 1986. You can't smell or taste lead in drinking water. To find out for certain if you have lead in drinking water, have your water tested. Remember older homes with a private well can also have plumbing materials that contain lead.

#### **Important Steps You Can Take to Reduce Lead in Drinking Water**

- Use only cold water for drinking, cooking and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water.
- Flush your home's pipes before drinking the water. Ways to flush your home's pipes include running the tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or doing a load of dishes.
- Regularly clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator).
- If you use a filter certified to remove lead, don't forget to read the directions to learn when to change the cartridge. Using a filter after it has expired can make it less effective at removing lead.

Contact your water company to determine if the pipe that connects your home to the water main (called a service line) is made from lead. Your area's water company can also provide information about the lead levels in your system's drinking water.

For more information about lead in drinking water please contact EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. If you have other questions about lead poisoning prevention, call 1-800 424-LEAD.

Call your local health department or water company to find out about testing your water, or visit [epa.gov/safewater](http://epa.gov/safewater) for EPA's lead in drinking water information. Some states or utilities offer programs to pay for water testing for residents. Contact your state or local water company to learn more.

#### **7. Eat right.**

A child who gets enough iron and calcium will absorb less lead. Foods with iron include eggs, lean red meat, and beans. Dairy products are high in calcium.

- Don't store food or liquids for long periods of time in lead crystal glassware or old or imported pottery.

# Are You Pregnant?

## PREVENT LEAD POISONING START NOW

Lead poisoning is caused by breathing in or swallowing items contaminated with lead. Lead can pass from a mother to her unborn baby. The good news is that **lead poisoning is preventable**.

### Too much lead in your body can

- Put you at risk for miscarriage.
- Cause your baby to be born too early or too small.
- Hurt your baby's brain, kidneys, and nervous system.
- Cause your child to have learning or behavior problems.

### Lead can be found in

- Paint and dust in older homes, especially dust from renovation or repairs.
- Candy, cosmetics, glazed pots, and some traditional medicines and spices from other countries.
- Certain jobs such as auto refinishing, construction, and plumbing.
- Toys and jewelry.
- Soil and drinking water from lead pipes, faucets, and plumbing fixtures.



# Now is the time to keep you and your baby safe from lead poisoning. Here's what you can do:

**1 Watch out for lead in your home.** Most lead comes from paint in homes built before 1978. When old paint cracks and peels, it creates lead dust and lead chips. The dust is so small you cannot see it. You can breathe in lead dust and not even know it.

Home repairs and renovations, such as sanding or scraping paint, in homes built before 1978 can make lead dust.

If you are pregnant or breastfeeding, leave the house when someone is

- Removing lead paint.
- Cleaning up after removing lead paint.
- Remodeling a room that might have lead paint.

**Tip:** If you live in a home built before 1978, have your home inspected by a licensed lead inspector. Find a certified inspector or risk assessor at <https://www.epa.gov/lead>.

**2 Avoid certain jobs or hobbies.** Some jobs can expose you to lead, such as construction and renovation or repair of homes built before 1978, and battery manufacturing or recycling. Some hobbies can expose you to lead, such as renovating homes, making glazed pottery, or shooting at firing ranges.

If someone who lives with you works with or takes part in activities that involve lead, have them change into clean clothing before coming home. Keep their work or activity shoes and tools outside and wash their clothes separately from the rest of the family's clothes.

**3 Talk to your doctor.** Talk to your doctor about any medicines, vitamins, home remedies, or supplements you are taking. Be sure to tell your doctor about any cravings you might have, such as eating dirt or clay, which might contain lead.

**4 Avoid certain foods and cosmetics.** Use caution when eating anything brought into the United States by travelers from other countries. Some candy, candy wrappers, spices and other foods, cosmetics, traditional medicines, and ceremonial or religious powders contain lead. For more information, see <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/prevention/sources/foods-cosmetics-medicines.htm>.

**5 Store and serve food properly.** Some dishes and serving containers contain lead. Be sure to cook, serve, and store food properly.

- Avoid using imported lead-glazed ceramic pottery.
- Avoid using pewter or brass containers or utensils.
- Avoid using leaded crystal to serve or store beverages.

**6 Eat foods with calcium, iron, and vitamin C.** These foods may help keep lead out of your unborn baby's developing body.

- Calcium is in milk, yogurt, cheese, and green leafy vegetables such as spinach.
- Iron is in lean red meat, beans, peanut butter, and cereals.
- Vitamin C is in oranges, green and red peppers, broccoli, tomatoes, and juices.

**More information about the topics in this fact sheet can be found at**  
<https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/>