



## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER**

- A. Leyden Township Water District 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 parts per billion (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. Leyden Township will provide a filter for use in your home if you have a lead or galvanized pipe service line. The filter will be furnished free of charge and can be obtained from Leyden Township. Call 847-823-0500 to schedule an appointment.
- v. Parents should have their child's blood tested for lead.
- vi. For additional information on protecting yourself from lead, you can visit <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/lcri-questions-and-answers>.

E. Older homes were sometimes constructed using water pipes containing lead in some or all of the piping between the street and building including the interior piping. Some older plumbing fixtures were manufactured with or contain some lead. Lead is known to enter the water system from corrosion of the plumbing materials that contain lead. Building owners may want to consider replacing older plumbing fixtures and/or piping in the building which contains lead.

F. For more information, call us at **Leyden Township Water District 847-455-8616**, or visit our Web site at **www.leydentownship.com**. 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.

G. Leyden Township Water District serves approximately 2,900 customers. Of these 2,900 customers, the water service piping between the street water main and the building are approximately 106 lead and 100 galvanized/unknown water services. An inventory of water services and type of water service material can be viewed at:

<https://leyden-township-cbbel.hub.arcgis.com>.

Customers can also check the piping inside their building. Lead pipes are shiny silver in color and non-ferrous meaning not attracted by a magnet. For more information on identifying the pipe material in your building you can visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/getting-started-lead-service-line-identification-and-replacement>

or

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/protect-your-tap-quick-check-lead-0>.

Leyden Township is committed to working with property owners to have lead water services replaced. Federal regulations require Leyden Township to replace 6% of the lead services annually. Leyden Township will replace these lead services between the building and the point of connection of the service to the public main at the street at no cost to the property owner. If a building owner with a lead service replaces all lead piping inside their building, the Township will replace the service between the building and the point of connection to the public main at the street.

- H. A plumbing water system for a building is comprised of a water service line, water meter and shut-off valve, an interior piping that connects to sinks, toilets, tubs and showers, laundry washing machines, or dishwashers. The piping is comprised of tubing, valves fittings and other components. Ensure that the plumbing fixtures are compliant with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and other relevant regulations. Compliant plumbing fixtures and components should be NSF/ANSI 372 or 61 Certified.

For information about the USEPA Lead Free Rule, please visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/questions-and-answers-about-final-lead-free-rule>



**LEYDEN TOWNSHIP WATER DISTRICT found high levels of lead in drinking water in some homes. Lead can cause serious health problems. For more information, please call LEYDEN TOWNSHIP WATER DISTRICT at 847-455-8616 or visit [www.leydentownship.com](http://www.leydentownship.com).**