

## LEAD INFORMATIONAL NOTICE

Our water system will soon begin a water line maintenance and/or construction project that may affect the lead content of your potable water supply. Lead, a metal found in natural deposits is harmful to human health, especially young children. The most common exposure to lead is swallowing or breathing in lead paint chips and dust. However, lead in drinking water can also be a source of lead exposure. In the past, lead was used in some water service lines and household plumbing materials. Lead in water usually occurs through corrosion of plumbing products containing lead. Though disruption, *construction or maintenance*, of lead service lines may also temporarily increase lead levels in the water supply. This disruption may be sometimes caused by water main maintenance/replacement. As of June 19, 1986 new or replaced water serviced lines and new household plumbing materials could not contain more than 8% lead. Lead content was further reduced on January 4, 2014 when plumbing materials must now be certified as “lead-free” to be used (weighted average of wetted surface cannot be more than 0.25% lead).

***The purpose of this notice is for informational purposes only.*** While it is not known for certain whether or not this particular construction project will adversely affect the lead (***if present***) plumbing in and outside your home, below describes some information about the project and some preventative measures you can take to help reduce the amount of lead in drinking water.

### **What you can do to reduce lead exposure in drinking water during this construction project:**

1. ***Run your water to flush out lead.*** If the plumbing in your home is accessible. You may be able to inspect your own plumbing to determine whether or not you have a lead service line. Otherwise, you will most likely have to hire a plumber.
  - If you do not have a lead service line, running the water for 1-2 minutes at the kitchen tap should clear the lead from your household plumbing to the kitchen tap. Once done, fill a container with water and store it in the refrigerator for drinking, cooking and preparing baby formula throughout the day.
  - If you do have a lead service line, flushing times can vary based on the length of your lead service line and the plumbing configuration in your home. Lead service lines vary considerably and flushing for at least 3-5 minutes is recommended.
2. ***Use cold water for drinking, 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. ***Look for alternative sources or treatment of water.*** You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter that is certified to remove “total lead”.
4. ***Clean and remove any debris from faucet aerators*** on a regular basis.
5. ***Do not boil water to remove lead.*** Boiling water will **not** reduce lead.
6. ***Purchase lead-free faucets and plumbing components.***
7. ***Remove the entire lead service line.***
8. ***Test your water for lead.*** Call Public Works at 708 352-2922 to find out how to get your water tested for lead. While we do not do the testing, we can provide a list of laboratories certified to do the testing. Laboratories will send you the bottles for sample collection. Please note that we are not affiliated with the laboratories and will charge a fee for this service.

**Please visit Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Website for more information.**

<https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/Pages/default.aspx>

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>