



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

The Bloomfield 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.

We collected drinking water samples at 35 locations throughout the sampling and testing period which ended in November 2017. Results are included within this notice.

The 90th percentile value for our water system was 16 parts per billion (0.016 MG/L) which is greater than the lead action level of 15 parts per billion.

What Does This Mean?

Under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act, EPA set the action level for lead in drinking water at 15 ppb. This means utilities must ensure that water from the taps used for human consumption do not exceed this level in at least 90 percent of the sites sampled (90th percentile result). The action level is *the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow*. If water from the tap does exceed this limit, then the utility must take certain steps to correct the problem. Because lead may pose serious health risks, the EPA set a Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) of zero for lead. The MCLG is *the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health*. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Health effects of Lead

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones, and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother’s bones, which may affect brain development.

Sources of Lead

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. Drinking water is one possible source of lead exposure. The main sources of lead exposure are lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust or soil, and some plumbing materials. In addition, lead can be found in certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics. Other sources include exposure in the work place and exposure form certain hobbies.

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-brass faucets, and in some cases, pipes made of lead that connect houses and buildings to water mains (service lines).

New brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as “lead-free”, may contribute lead to drinking water. The law currently allows end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 0.25 percent lead to be labeled as “lead free”. However, prior to January 4, 2014, “lead free” allowed up to 8 percent lead content of the wetted surfaces of plumbing products including those labeled National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certified. Consumers should be aware of this when choosing fixtures and take appropriate precautions.

EPA estimates that up to 20 percent of a person’s potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water. Infants who consume mostly formula mixed with lead-containing water can receive 40 to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water.

When water stands in Lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into your drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning, or later in the afternoon if the water has not been used all day, can contain fairly high levels of lead.

Steps you can take to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water

- 1. **Run the water to flush out lead.** 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 the water resides in plumbing the more lead it may contain. Flushing the tap means running the cold-water faucet for about 15-30 seconds. Although toilet flushing or showering flushes water through a portion of the plumbing system, you still need to flush the water in each faucet before using it for drinking or cooking. Flushing tap water is a simple and inexpensive measure you can take to protect your health. It usually uses less than one gallon of water.
- 2. **Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap. Hot water can dissolve lead more quickly than cold water. If you need hot water, draw water from the cold tap and then heat it. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
- 3. **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead.
- 4. **Look for alternative sources or treatment of water.** You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 1-800-NSF-8010 or www.nsf.org for information on performance standards for water filters. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer.
- 5. **Get your child tested.** Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about lead exposure. Your family doctor or pediatrician can perform a blood test for lead and provide you with information about the health effects of lead.

For more information, call us at 973-680-4009 or visit our website www.bloomfieldtwpnj.com. You can also e-mail the Township Water Operator at plasek@bloomfieldtwpnj.com. **For** more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA’s website at, <http://www.epa.gov/lead> call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD or Safe Drinking Water Act hotline at 1-800-426-4791, or contact your health care provider. You can also watch a Township Public Meeting with the Mayor held on November 16, 2017 on WBMA-TV or on the WBMA-TV website.

Test your water for lead. Call us at 973-680-4009 to find out how to get your water tested for lead. The Bloomfield Water Department through the Bloomfield Health Department will review your request and either provide the testing free of charge or, depending upon demand, coordinate with you directly to arrange for lead sampling at a minimum charge to you.

Contact us at **973-680-4009** to obtain a translated copy of the public education materials or to request assistance in the appropriate language.

This notice is being sent to you by the Bloomfield Water Department, 1 Municipal Plaza, Bloomfield NJ 07003; New Jersey Public Water Supply (NJPWS) Identification Number NJ0702001.

Collection Date	Sample Pt ID	Sample # ^	Result	Analysis Date	Date Received
08/13/2017	DS	370905164	0.045 MG/L	09/07/2017	09/21/2017
07/26/2017	DS	370801215	0.022 MG/L	08/03/2017	08/21/2017
09/29/2017	DS	371002118	0.016 MG/L	10/05/2017	10/20/2017
08/22/2017	DS	370822069	0.016 MG/L	08/24/2017	09/08/2017
07/25/2017	DS	370801224	0.016 MG/L	08/03/2017	08/21/2017
07/18/2017	DS	370724094	0.015 MG/L	07/26/2017	08/03/2017
09/29/2017	DS	371002117	0.012 MG/L	10/05/2017	10/20/2017
07/18/2017	DS	370724091	0.012 MG/L	07/26/2017	08/03/2017
09/28/2017	DS	371002119	0.011 MG/L	10/05/2017	10/20/2017
08/03/2017	DS	370811060	0.01 MG/L	08/15/2017	08/25/2017
08/05/2017	DS	370811056	0.008 MG/L	08/15/2017	08/25/2017
07/28/2017	DS	370801221	0.008 MG/L	08/03/2017	08/21/2017
07/18/2017	DS	370724092	0.007 MG/L	07/26/2017	08/03/2017
07/18/2017	DS	370724088	0.006 MG/L	07/26/2017	08/03/2017
07/28/2017	DS	370801222	0.005 MG/L	08/03/2017	08/21/2017
08/08/2017	DS	370811059	0.004 MG/L	08/15/2017	08/25/2017
08/01/2017	DS	370801225	0.004 MG/L	08/03/2017	08/21/2017
07/18/2017	DS	370724090	0.004 MG/L	07/26/2017	08/03/2017

Collection Date	Sample Pt ID	Sample # ^	Result	Analysis Date	Date Received
08/03/2017	DS	370811057	0.002 MG/L	08/15/2017	08/25/2017
07/26/2017	DS	370801220	0.002 MG/L	08/03/2017	08/21/2017
07/25/2017	DS	370801217	0.002 MG/L	08/03/2017	08/21/2017
07/23/2017	DS	370801218	0.002 MG/L	08/03/2017	08/21/2017
07/21/2017	DS	370724093	0.002 MG/L	07/26/2017	08/03/2017
08/05/2017	DS	370811055	0.001 MG/L	08/15/2017	08/25/2017
07/25/2017	DS	370801219	0.001 MG/L	08/03/2017	08/21/2017
07/25/2017	DS	370801223	0.001 MG/L	08/03/2017	08/21/2017
09/07/2017	DS	370911155	<0.001 MG/L	09/14/2017	10/03/2017
08/31/2017	DS	370905163	<0.001 MG/L	09/07/2017	09/21/2017
08/21/2017	DS	370822070	<0.001 MG/L	08/24/2017	09/08/2017
08/21/2017	DS	370822071	<0.001 MG/L	08/24/2017	09/08/2017
08/18/2017	DS	370822072	<0.001 MG/L	08/24/2017	09/08/2017
08/02/2017	DS	370811058	<0.001 MG/L	08/15/2017	08/25/2017
07/26/2017	DS	370801216	<0.001 MG/L	08/03/2017	08/21/2017
07/21/2017	DS	370724089	<0.001 MG/L	07/26/2017	08/03/2017
07/20/2017	DS	370724087	<0.001 MG/L	07/26/2017	08/03/2017