

Lead in Drinking Water



Drinking water can be a source of lead exposure.

There is no safe level of lead exposure. Lead can affect learning, mental health, and increase the risk of diseases later in life.

Because plumbing components can contain lead, everyone should take steps to reduce their exposure.



Run tap water for at least three minutes before drinking if it has been sitting for more than two hours.



Clean your faucet's screen monthly, if the water flow is low, when plumbing work has been done, and when there is construction.*



Use cold water for drinking, making food, and making baby formula.



Learn about your water quality.

- ◆ Check your water system's consumer confidence report.*
- ◆ Test your private well every five years and when it will be used by a pregnant person or baby.*



Check your home's plumbing for potential lead sources.

- ◆ Faucets that are made of brass or bronze as they can contain lead.
- ◆ Service line or interior pipes that are made of lead or galvanized steel.*
- ◆ Homes built before 1986 likely have lead solder.

If lead sources are found, take extra steps to protect sensitive groups.



People who are pregnant and children with an elevated blood lead level should use a different source of water for drinking and making foods that take up lot of water like oatmeal, rice, and jello.



Use a different source of water to make baby formula .

Options include bottled water and water from certified treatment device.*



Remove lead sources from the plumbing - prioritize removing service lines and pipes made of lead and galvanized steel.*

★ = Additional information is available in the *Resource Guide*.



★ Resource Guide ★



This guide has instructions on how to clean your **faucet's screen**: www.michigan.gov/-/media/Project/Websites/mileadsafe/Educational-resources/Cleaning_Your_Aerators_English.pdf



Your water system's **consumer confidence report** describes where your water comes from, what contaminants were detected, and if there are any violations. To get a copy, check your water system's webpage or contact them directly.



Households with pregnant people and young children may be eligible for **free private well testing** through their local health department. Find contact information for your health department at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lh-depts/counties/index.htm.



This online program can help you determine if you have **lead or lead containing pipes** in your home: apps.npr.org/find-lead-pipes-in-your-home/en/#intro



When testing your private well, you should use a **lab** certified by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). You can find a list at dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/labCert/certified-lab-lists.



Our *Water Treatment Devices for Private Well Contaminants* guide has information on certified **treatment devices** for lead: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p03494.pdf.

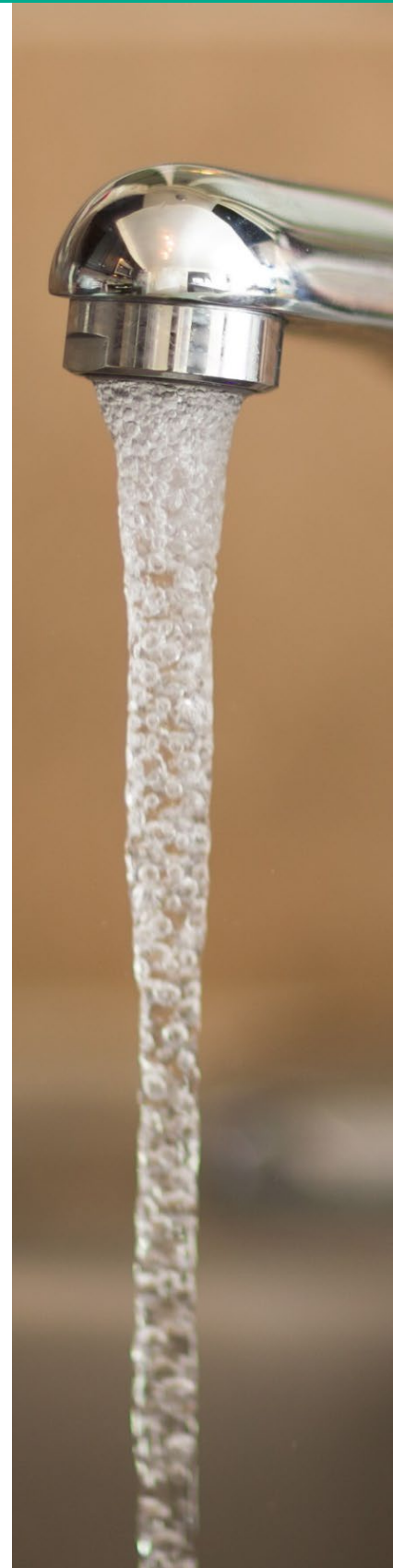


If you have a lead service line, check with your water system to see if they have a **replacement program** to help with costs.



Private well users should also test for arsenic, bacteria, and nitrate regularly.

You can find information on these and other substances to consider testing for at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/water/private.htm.



You can find all this information and more at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/water/lead.htm>.

Questions? Concerns?
Contact us at
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