



Public Advisory for Drinking Water Customers

In 2018, the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act's Lead and Copper Rule was changed to better protect your health. New water sampling rules have been added to better detect possible lead in your drinking water. These changes require communities with lead service lines to do more sampling. This new sampling method was expected to result in higher lead results, not because the water source or quality for residents has changed, but because the act has more stringent sampling procedures and analysis.

The City of Lapeer has been conducting testing of tap water in homes with lead service lines for lead and copper in accordance with this Act since 1992.

In September, 2019 the City collected samples from 20 single family residential properties with known lead services lines. A "service" is the pipe that connects the home/building to the public water main. Out of approximately 3,461 total water customers in the City and neighboring townships, we estimate there are approximately 2% (roughly 70 customers) with lead service lines. Currently, through home inspections we have identified 27 customers with lead service lines, less than 1%. Three (3) of the twenty (20) homes within our sample group tested exceeded the Action Level of 15 parts per billion (ppb). Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (formally known as MDEQ) evaluates lead and copper compliance with the Action Level base on the 90th percentile of the 20 lead and copper samples collected in September. As a result of the testing under the new law and method of testing, the lead 90th percentile for the City of Lapeer is at 19 ppb, which exceeds the Action Level of 15 ppb. This does not mean every customer has elevated lead levels. An Action Level exceedance means that more than 10% of the samples tested under the new testing method have elevated lead levels. The City had three (3) within our sample group of twenty (20) locations with known lead service lines reported as elevated. These three (3) lead services were replaced with copper within a month of being notified of the elevated test results.

The "Action Level" is not a health-based standard, but it is a level that triggers additional actions including, but not limited to, increased investigative sampling of water quality, additional lead sampling of our customer base, and educational outreach to our customers. The City of Lapeer would like to share some ways you can reduce your exposure to lead. Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water that is carried through your home with lead plumbing, fixtures, lead service lines, and/or other sources.

Below are some recommended actions to help reduce lead exposure. Lead can enter drinking water when in contact with pipes, solder, home/building interior plumbing, fittings and fixtures that contain lead. Homes constructed before 1960 are more likely to have lead service lines. Plumbing solder for drinking water was lead until it was banned in 1986. Between 1996 and 2014 plumbing fixtures contain up to eighty percent (80%) lead but were labelled "lead-free." Houses with lead service lines have an increased risk of having high lead levels in drinking water. The longer water has been sitting in your homes' pipes, the more lead it may contain. Therefore, if your water has not been used for several hours, run the water before using it for drinking or cooking. This flushes lead-containing water from the pipes. Additional flushing may be required for homes that have been vacant or have longer services lines.

- **Run your water to flush out lead-containing water.**
 - If you **do not** have a lead service line, run the water for 30 seconds to two (2) minutes, or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature.
 - If you **do** have a lead service line, run the water for at least five (5) minutes to flush water from the plumbing of your home and the lead service line.

- **Consider using a filter to reduce lead in drinking water. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services recommends that any household with an infant, young child or pregnant woman use cold water and a certified lead filter to remove lead from their drinking water, especially when preparing baby formula.**
 - Look for filters that are tested and certified to NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for lead reduction.
 - Be sure to maintain and replace the filter device in accordance with the manufactures instruction to protect water quality.
 - If your household has a child or pregnant woman and are not able to afford the cost of a lead filter, the City of Lapeer, on Wednesday, November 20th, between the hours of 12:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Lapeer County Health Department, Lower Level, 1800 Imlay City Road, Lapeer, Michigan 48446, will be providing one lead filter system at no cost for those that qualify.

- **Do not use hot water for drinking, preparing food, cooking, or preparing baby formula.**
- **Do not boil** your water as boiling will not reduce the amount of lead in water.
- Clean your faucet aerator to remove trapped debris.
- Check whether your home has a lead service line. You can contact the City's Department of Public Works to have a staff member visit your home to identify the water line service material at no charge by calling 810-664-4711.
- Anyone with health-related questions can contact Lapeer County Health Department at 810-667-0391.

As part of the State's compliance requirement, the City of Lapeer will soon provide a comprehensive public education document with additional information about lead in drinking water. We will be collecting forty (40) samples every six (6) months and reviewing the results to determine if corrective actions are necessary to reduce corrosion in household plumbing.

If you are a City of Lapeer water customer and have or think you may have a lead service line to your home and would like to verify your water service line, you can contact the City's Department of Public Works at 810-664-4711 to have a staff member visit your home, at no charge, to inspect your water service line. EGLE publishes a list of state laboratories that are certified for lead testing at www.michigan.gov/EGLElabs.

Additional information regarding the new regulation and lead safety can be found on the City of Lapeer website at <https://www.ci.lapeer.mi.us> Lead and Copper or on the EGLE website at www.michigan.gov/deqleadpublicadvisory.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.