

Melvindale

Lead in Your Public Water Supply's Drinking Water

What you Need to Know to Protect Your Health

Lead is a metal that can be found in air, soil, water, and inside our homes. Almost everyone has been exposed to lead at some time in their life. Lead can be harmful to a person's health and it is best to avoid any exposure to lead.

When a community's water supply exceeds the action level for lead, the water supplier must take action to reduce the amount of lead in the water. There are actions you can take too. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recommends learning the facts about lead in drinking water so you can make the best decisions to protect your health.

Based on the test results in some homes in Melvindale MDHHS recommends that children under age 18 and pregnant women only consume water that has been both flushed and filtered. As a precaution, MDHHS is making these specific recommendations:

MDHHS Recommendations for Melvindale's Action Level for Lead	
Everyone should regularly clean their aerators and daily flush their household plumbing.	
MDHHS Recommendation for flushing and filtering	<p>Children and fetuses are most at risk of harm to their health from lead. Children and pregnant women should only drink water that has been both flushed and filtered. To do this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before running the water through your filter, run the water at least five minutes (use the bypass if you have a faucet mounted filter). The water should have gone from room temperature to cold. If the water has not gone cold, continue to run until cold. • After doing this flushing, then run the cold water through your lead-reducing filter before drinking or using for food preparation and cooking. <p>Continue to use method until State agencies learn more about the source of lead and says flushing before filtering is no longer needed.</p>
Children under the age of 18 years old and pregnant women should use ONLY cold flushed filtered water for:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinking and cooking* • Rinsing foods* • Mixing infant powdered formula* • Brushing teeth*
Adults may choose to use cold flushed filtered water for:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinking and cooking* • Rinsing foods* • Brushing teeth
Anyone can use water that has not been flushed and filtered for:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showering or bathing (avoid swallowing the water) • Washing hands, dishes, or clothes • Cleaning
*People could also choose to use bottled water for these activities.	

State agencies are working to learn if the test results reflect conditions that could be present in the entire water system. This work includes collecting new water samples from some homes that had high amounts of lead in the water. New results may not be available for up to a week. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Things you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water



Clean the mesh screen in your faucet (Aerators). Clean your drinking water faucet aerator at least every six months. If there is construction or repairs to the public water system or pipes near your home, including water meter replacement in your home, clean your drinking water faucet aerator after the work is done or every month until the work is done.



Get your water moving (Flushing). If you have not used your water for several hours or more, get your water moving by flushing your pipes. This may reduce the amount of lead in drinking water. Follow your public water supply's instructions on how long to flush your pipes. Pipes can be flushed by doing any of the following:

- running faucets
- taking a shower
- running a load of laundry
- washing dishes

Before using the water from any faucet for drinking, cooking, rinsing foods, and brushing teeth, run the water again until it goes from room temperature to cold. This flushes out any water that had been sitting in that sink's pipes and faucet.

Your water utility can provide through flushing directions for whole house flushing after a water meter replacement or other work on the public water system.



Use a water filter. A certified filter can be used as a temporary way to reduce lead in drinking water. Filters are made to reduce lead, but do not guarantee that all lead will be removed from your drinking water.

It is important to follow manufacture's direction. If you are buying a filter, read the packaging to be sure it says the filter is certified for both to NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for lead reduction certified for NSF/ANSI Standard 42.



Replace older plumbing, pipes, and faucets that may add lead to water. Older faucets, fittings, and valves sold before 2014 may contain up to 8 percent lead, even if marked "lead-free." Look for replacement faucets made in 2014 or later and make sure they are certified to contain 0.25 percent lead or less.

Check your plumbing, or hire a plumber, to know what parts should be replaced to reduce lead in your drinking water.

Things you should NOT do when lead is in drinking water



Do not use hot water for drinking or cooking. Lead dissolves more easily into hot water.

Don't try to remove lead by boiling the water. It won't work. Water evaporates during boiling, so the amount of lead in the water may end up higher than before boiling.

Testing your water for lead

Testing your water with a certified lab is the only way to find out how much lead is in your drinking water. Your public water supply may offer to test your water for free. If not, you can test it yourself. Visit Michigan.gov/EGLElab and choose "Drinking Water Laboratory" to learn how to order a test kit. The cost is typically \$30.

If you have questions about testing your water, you can contact MDHHS at 517-284-4115.

For More Information

**Michigan Department of Health and
Human Services**

517-284-4115

List of Michigan Local Health Departments

Malph.org/Resources/Directory

**Michigan Department of Environment,
Great Lakes, and Energy**

800-662-9278

Mi Lead Safe Website

Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe