

Lead Informational Notice

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Dear Water Customer:

Today's Date: June 14, 2021

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; however, 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's 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.

Project Start Date: June 28, 2021

Project expected to be completed by: July 2, 2021

Project location and description: The Village of New Berlin's Water Department will be flushing fire hydrants the week of June 28 – July 2. Please be reminded that during this time the water may be discolored. We recommend not washing white clothes if water is discolored. The discoloring of water is caused by the higher velocities of water traveling through the pipes during flushing. We are sorry for any inconvenience during this time. If you have any questions, please call the Water Department at 217-488-6312.

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

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 you have done this, 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. The length of lead service lines varies considerably. Flushing for at least 3 – 5 minutes is recommended.

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.

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".

Clean and remove any debris from faucet aerators on a regular basis.

Do not boil water to remove lead. Boiling water will not reduce lead.

Purchase lead-free faucets and plumbing components.

Remove the entire lead service line.

Test your water for lead. Call us at: 217-488-6312 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 they will charge you a fee.

- If test results indicate a lead level above 15 ug/L, bottled water should be used by pregnant women, breast-feeding women, young children, and formula-fed infants.