How Can I Tell if the Water in My Home Has Too Much Lead?

There is no safe level of lead. If there is lead in your home environment, you should take steps to reduce your exposure. Many laboratories can test your water to see if it contains lead. To purchase a sample container and get instructions on how to submit a sample, please call our Water Treatment Plant at: (717) 765-4512.

How Can I Test My Child for Lead Exposure?

If you are concerned about your child's lead exposure, call your doctor or the Pennsylvania Department of Health at (877) 724-3528 to find out how to have your child tested. Find out more information about child lead poisoning prevention by visiting: https://www.health.pa.gov › topics › Documents › Childhood Lead Data Sheet

Is My Water Still Safe to Use?

Before drinking your water, make sure you follow the actions recommended in the "How Can I Reduce My Exposure to Lead in Water?" section of this brochure.

You can safely use your water for cleaning, bathing and other household uses.

Lead is everywhere in the environment. We recommend you take steps to minimize exposure to all sources of lead. Learn more at: www.epa.gov/lead or on our website at: www.waynesboropa.org.

For More Information

For more information, call us at: (717) 762-2101.

Visit our website at: www.waynesboropa.org/lead

Visit the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection website: www.dep.pa.gov

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit www.epa.gov/lead or contact your health care provider.

ESTE INFORME CONTIENE INFORMACION IMPORTANTA ACERCA DE SU AUGA POTABLE. HAGA QUE ALGUIEN LO TRADUZCA PARA USTED, O HABLO CON ALGUIEN QUE LO ENTIENDA.

This notice is being sent to you by

Waynesboro Borough Authority
PWSID 7280032

Date Distributed: 12/26/2019

Important Information about the Potential for Lead in Your Drinking Water

The Waynesboro Water System has 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.

What Are the 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 can be 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.

What Are the Sources of Lead?

Lead is rarely found in natural sources of water such as rivers, streams, and lakes or underground aquifers.

You may be in contact with lead through paint, water, dust, soil, food, hobbies or your job. The most common way for you to come in contact with lead is through lead-based paint found in homes built before 1978.

Lead can get into drinking water after it leaves the treatment plant, as it passes through your household plumbing system. Homes built before 1940 may have lead service lines that connect them to public water. Plumbing systems built before 1986 may have lead parts. New "lead free" pipes and plumbing parts may still contain 0.25% lead. Brass parts may also contain some lead. Note that many faucets are made of brass even if they do not have a "brass" color. The amount of lead that gets into drinking water depends on many factors, such as the amount of lead in plumbing materials, water chemistry and water usage.

How Can I Reduce My Exposure to Lead in Water?

1. **Let the water run** before using it for drinking or cooking. If you have a lead service line, let the water run for 3-5 minutes. If you do not have a lead service line, let the water run for 30-60 seconds. The more time water has been sitting in your pipes, the more lead it may contain.
    - You can find out if you have a lead service line by contacting your public water system, or by reading: Do you have lead pipes in your home? (https://apps.npr.org/find-lead-pipes-in-your-home/en/#intro)
    - Ways to let the water run before using it for drinking or cooking:
        - Do household tasks like showering or running the dishwasher first
        - Collect tap water for cleaning or watering plants
    - Make sure you let the water run from individual faucets for a short time before using them for drinking or cooking.
    - Consider keeping a container of drinking water in the refrigerator to reduce how often you need to let the water run.
2. **Use cold water** for drinking, making food and making baby formula. Hot water releases more lead from pipes than cold water. Boiling water does not reduce lead levels and may actually increase them.
3. **Test your water.** The only way to know if lead has been reduced by letting it run is to check with a test. If letting the water run does not reduce lead, consider other options to reduce your exposure.
4. **Treat your water** or find an alternative source if a test shows your water has high levels of lead after you let the water run. You can learn more about water treatment options by speaking with a qualified home water treatment specialist.

What Did We Find?

The Waynesboro Water System analyzed tap water samples taken from a number of residential locations known to have plumbing components containing lead. Some of the samples were above the action level for lead.

What Are We Doing about the Issue?

First, we are educating the public about the potential for their household plumbing to impact drinking water. In addition, we are performing sampling and testing for lead and copper at residences and businesses throughout the Waynesboro Water System. Further we are working with our consulting engineer to ensure that our corrosion control program is optimized. We are striving to get the word out to all customers that may have lead in their household plumbing. Please pass the word! There is no lead in our source water – the problem is occurring from household plumbing components containing lead.