

# **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER**

***for Nontransient Noncommunity Public Water Systems and Single-Structure Community Public Water Systems, such as prisons, nursing homes and care facilities.***

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***Munson Elementary School's water system has found levels of lead in drinking water above the federal action level of 15 parts per billion in 1 building. The level of lead reported was 23.6 parts per billion. 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.***

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## **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 is 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.

## **SOURCES OF LEAD**

Lead is a common, natural, toxic, and often useful metal that was used for years in products found around the home. It can be found throughout the environment in lead-based paint, air, soil, household dust, food, and certain types of pottery, porcelain, and pewter. It can also be found in water.

Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like rivers and lakes. Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and household plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass and chrome plated brass faucets, and, in some

cases, pipes made of lead that connect your house to the water main (service lines). Some common causes of corrosion are dissolved oxygen, acidity (low pH), and low mineral content in the water. In 2011 the federal Safe Drinking Water Act was amended to define "lead free" as having not more than 0.2 percent lead in solder and flux and not more than a weighted average of 0.25 for wetted surfaces of pipes, fittings, and fixtures.

When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into your drinking water. This means the first draw from the faucet in the morning, or later in the afternoon after returning from work or school, can contain fairly high levels of lead.

Lead in drinking water, although rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, can significantly increase a person's total lead exposure, particularly the exposure of infants who drink baby formulas and concentrated juices that are mixed with water.

Other important sources of lead exposure are lead-based paint, soil, and household dust. Homes build prior to 1978 may have lead-based paint both inside and outside of the house. Ingestion of lead-based paint chips is frequently a cause of lead exposure in young children. Soil and household dust may also contain deteriorating lead-based paint.

## **STEPS THE CONSUMER CAN TAKE TO REDUCE THEIR EXPOSURE TO LEAD IN DRINKING WATER**

To reduce your exposure to lead in drinking water, the following precautions should be considered and taken.

Let the water run from the faucet before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in a faucet has gone unused for more than six hours. The longer water resides in your home or building's plumbing, the more lead it may contain. Flushing the faucet means running the cold water faucet until the water gets noticeably colder, usually about 30 seconds to 2 minutes. If your house or building has a lead service line to the water main, you may have to flush the water for a longer time. Although toilet flushing or showering flushes water through a portion of your home or building's plumbing system, you still need to flush water in each faucet before using it for drinking or cooking. Flushing faucet water is a simple and inexpensive measure you can take to reduce lead exposure. To conserve water, fill a couple of bottles for drinking water after flushing the faucet, and wherever possible use the first flush to wash dishes or water the plants.

Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap. Hot water can dissolve more lead in less time than cold water. If you need hot water, draw water from the cold tap and heat it on the stove or microwave. Do not prepare baby formula with water from the hot water tap.

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

Periodically remove the strainers from faucets and flush by running water for 3 to 5 minutes to remove any loose lead solder or debris that has accumulated over time.

Parents may want to have your child's blood tested for lead, contact your primary care physician for testing information. Your family doctor or pediatrician can also provide you information about the health effects of lead.

Despite our best efforts to control water corrosivity and remove lead from the water supply, lead levels in some homes or buildings can be high. To find out whether you need to take action in your home, have your drinking

water tested to determine if it contains excessive concentrations of lead. Testing is essential because you cannot see, taste, or smell lead in drinking water.

A list of laboratories certified by the Ohio EPA to perform lead analysis on drinking water samples can be found on the Ohio EPA webpage at <http://epa.ohio.gov/Portals/28/documents/labcert/Chemical%20Labs.pdf>.

The steps described above will reduce the lead concentrations in your drinking water. However, if a water test indicates that the drinking water coming from your faucet contains lead concentrations in excess of 15 parts per billion after flushing, or after we have completed our actions to minimize levels, then you may want to take any of the following additional measures.

Purchase or lease a home treatment device certified by an independent testing agency such as NSF International and is rated for lead reduction. Home treatment devices are limited in that each unit treats only water that flows from the faucet(s) to which it is connected, and all of the devices require periodic maintenance and replacement. Countertop devices such as reverse osmosis systems installed on the faucet or distillers can effectively remove lead from your drinking water. Some activated carbon filters may reduce lead levels at the faucet; however, all lead reduction claims should be investigated. Be sure to check the actual performance of a specific home treatment device before and after installing the unit. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's recommendations for the replacement of filters or other media in the treatment unit to ensure the product is working correctly.

Purchase bottled water for drinking and cooking. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends children and pregnant women use bottled water or water from a filtration system that has been certified by an independent testing organization to reduce or eliminate lead for cooking, drinking and baby formula preparation.

## **WHAT IS THE PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM DOING TO REDUCE THE LEAD LEVELS IN HOMES AND BUILDINGS IN THIS AREA**

We are following all EPA recommendations and action steps at this time.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

For more information call us at 440-285-4055. For more information on reducing lead exposure around

### **LABORATORY RESULTS**

Munson Elementary Found Lead in Drinking Water Distribution System In recent results, Munson Elementary detected lead in levels exceeding the federal action level. Samples were collected on October 1, 2021. Lead can cause serious health problems especially for pregnant women and young children.

Our 90th percentile (90% of sample results below this value) for lead was **23.6** micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ). When the 90th percentile for lead samples results exceeds 15  $\mu\text{g/L}$ , Munson Elementary is required to take action to correct the exceedance. Munson Elementary collected **20** lead samples and **4** results were above 15  $\mu\text{g/L}$ , resulting in a 90th percentile of **23.6**  $\mu\text{g/L}$ .

Lead typically enters water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or wearing away, of pipes or materials containing lead in the water distribution system and household plumbing. There are steps the public can take to reduce their lead exposure, which include running the water for 30 seconds to 3 minutes (or until it is noticeably colder) before using it for drinking, cooking, or preparing baby formula. For more information on the health effects of lead, visit U.S. EPA's website at [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead).

Munson Elementary certified laboratory is Geauga County Labs located at 470 Center Street Building #3, Chardon, OH 44024 (440)279-1970 You can contact them on the availability of tap water testing. In addition, do not hesitate to contact Steven Kofol, Assistant Superintendent of Business Affairs at 440-285-4055

your home or building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/lead> or contact your healthcare provider.

**THIS NOTICE IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:** Munson Elementary School, OH2850812

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