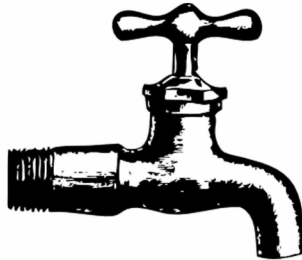


CITY OF **NEWARK**
Mayor Ras J. Baraka



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

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AN INFORMATIONAL GUIDE

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW



Brought to you by the City of Newark

Important Information about Lead in your Drinking Water

The City of Newark 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.

This notice is being distributed to you and all customers of Newark Water Department as a regulatory requirement. Under the Code of Federal Regulations for the Control of Lead and Copper, 40 CFR Part 141 Subpart I, Newark Water Department is required to routinely sample for lead and copper at a minimum number of locations based on the population served.

The 90th percentile value for our water system is greater than the lead action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb). The action level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. This means Newark Water Department must ensure that water results from the locations sampled do not exceed this level in at least 90 percent of the sites sampled (90th percentile result).

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.

In other words, it is the fetus that is at risk because developing fetuses receive lead from the mother's bones. Children and fetuses absorb more lead into their bodies than adults and are more susceptible to its effects on brain development; however, most children with elevated blood lead levels do not exhibit any symptoms, but effects may appear later in life.

Sources of Lead

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. Drinking water is one possible source of lead exposure. The main sources of lead exposure are lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust or soil, and some plumbing materials. In addition, lead can be found in certain types of pottery, pewter, brass

fixtures, food, cosmetics, imported spices and other food. Other sources include exposure in the workplace and exposure from certain hobbies like shooting ranges and fishing (lead can be carried on clothing or shoes). Lead is found in some toys, some playground equipment, and some children's metal jewelry. *Tip: Wash your children's hands and toys often as they can come into contact with dirt and dust containing lead.*

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 the 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-brass faucets, and in some cases, pipes made of or lined with lead (e.g. lead service lines).

- Homes and buildings in New Jersey built before 1988 are more likely to have lead pipes and/or lead solder.
- Service lines, which may also contain lead, are the individual pipes that run from the water main in the street to a home or building and consist of two portions. The first portion is the section of the service line from the water main to the curb stop and the second portion is the section from the curb stop to the home. Ownership of the service line varies by water system, but for Newark Water Department, the service line is owned entirely by the property owner.

Brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free", may contribute lead to drinking water. The law currently allows end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 0.25 percent lead to be labeled as "lead-free". However, prior to January 4, 2014, "lead free" allowed up to 8 percent lead content of the wetted surfaces of plumbing products including those labeled National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certified. Consumers should be aware of this when choosing fixtures and take appropriate precautions.

EPA estimates that 10 to 20 percent of a person's potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water. Infants who consume mostly formula mixed with lead-containing water can receive 40 to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water. When there are elevated levels of lead in your water, drinking water is likely to be a more important source of exposure.

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 water drawn from the tap in the morning, or later in the afternoon if the water has not been used all day, can contain elevated levels of lead.

Steps you can take to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water

1. Determine if you have lead service line or interior lead plumbing or solder. Property owners are encouraged to check their portion of the service lines for lead and we are asking you to contact us at (973)733-6303 if a lead service line is identified so we can update our records. If your home/building was constructed prior to 1988, it is also important to determine if interior lead solder or lead pipes are present. You can check yourself, hire a licensed plumber, or check with your landlord.

2. Replace plumbing fixtures and service lines containing lead. Elevated lead levels were found in samples taken from homes with lead service lines. The City is conducting a Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) Program to assist property owners with the replacement of their lead service line at no cost. For more information, contact us at (973)733-6303 or go to www.newarklead serviceline.com/register.

Replace brass faucets, fittings, and valves that do not meet the current definition of "lead free." The current definition went into effect January 4, 2014; therefore, any "lead free" plumbing materials purchased and/or installed prior to that date should be discarded or replaced. Visit the NSF website at www.nsf.org to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures.

3. Sample your drinking water for lead. Customers may receive free water tap testing for lead. Contact us at (973)733-6303 to arrange for the testing. Testing is essential because you cannot see, taste, or smell lead in drinking water.

4. Look for alternative sources or treatment of water. Currently, Newark is providing NSF-certified filters to remove lead to its customers, free of charge, to any single-family residence in the Pequannock service area that receives or may receive (service line material is unknown) water through a lead service line or that may have lead solder or plumbing, any multi-family residence in the Pequannock service area with a water service line less than 3 inches in diameter that receives or may receive water through a lead service line or that may have lead solder or plumbing, and any residence

whose tap tested by Newark Water Department has a result at or above 15 ppb for lead, regardless of whether the residence is located in the Pequannock or Wanaque service area. For more information go to www.nsf.org.

Prior to the filters being installed, for those with known lead service lines or service lines of unknown material within the Pequannock service area, **the New Jersey Department of Health recommends that bottled water be used by pregnant women, infants who are being fed with formula, and for all children under the age of six.**

In addition, the filters or bottled water should be used until further notice. Do not run hot water through your filter.

FILTER & REPLACEMENT CARTRIDGES

PICK-UP LOCATION & HOURS

Department of Water and Sewer Utilities - 239 Central Avenue

Sunday - Saturday 8:00am – 7:00pm

Department of Health and Community Wellness – 110 Williams Street

Monday - Friday 8:30am to 4:00pm

Tuesday - Friday 11:00am – 7:00pm * Saturday 11:00am – 6:00pm

Boylan Recreation Center – 916 South Orange Avenue

St. Peters Recreation Center – 378 Lyons Avenue

Vince Lombardi Center of Hope – 201 Bloomfield Avenue



For qualified residents in need of assistance - To request an appointment for assistance with installation, use and maintenance of filters or cartridges please contact waterandsewer@ci.newark.nj.us or (973) 733-6303.

If you are not eligible for a free filter, you may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 1-800-NSF-8010 or www.nsf.org for information on performance standards for water filters.

Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer recommendations and instructions. Filter cartridges should be replaced at least every three (3) months or when illuminated lights turns red.

5. Remove and clean aerators/screens on plumbing fixtures. Over time, particles and sediment can collect in the aerator screen usually found at the tip of indoor faucets. Regularly remove and clean aerators screens and remove any particles.

6. Run the cold water to flush out lead. Let the water run from the tap before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in the faucet has gone unused for more than six hours. The longer the water resides in plumbing the more lead it contains. Flushing the tap means running the cold water faucet for about 15 to 30 seconds. **For residents with a lead service line or until you determine if you are served by one,** let the cold water run from tap longer based on the length of the lead service line and the plumbing configuration in your home (about 5-8 minutes).

Although toilet flushing or showering flushes water through a portion of the plumbing system, you still need to flush the water in each faucet before using it for drinking or cooking. Flushing tap water is a simple and inexpensive measure you can take to protect your health. Flushing is recommended for residences in the Pequannock service area that have a lead service line and/or lead plumbing and for all residences in the Wanaque service area, based on currently available data.

7. Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula. Do not cook, drink, or prepare beverages from the hot water tap. Hot water can dissolve lead more quickly than cold water. If you need hot water, draw water from the cold tap and then heat it. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula. If you have not had your water sampled or if you know or suspect you have a lead service line it is recommended that bottled water be used for drinking and preparing baby formula.

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

9. Get your child tested. The New Jersey Department of Health recommends that children under the age of 18 have their blood lead levels screened as soon as possible regardless of previous blood lead testing history. Customers may receive free blood-testing for lead for any child aged 6 or under. Free blood-testing is available at the Health Department, 110 Williams Street, Newark, NJ. Please call (973)733-5310 to schedule an appointment. Residences with children whose blood tests are equal to or above 5 micrograms per deciliter (ug/dL) will be provided with nurse case management and an inspection of the home by the City of Newark Department of Health and Community Wellness to determine if there are sources of lead within the home.

10. Proper and routine maintenance of water softeners. It is very important that residents manage their water softeners appropriately. Not properly maintaining your water softener could have a negative impact on the corrosivity of the water in your home. Water softeners and reverse osmosis units will remove lead from water but can also make the water more corrosive to lead solder and plumbing by removing certain minerals; therefore, the installation of these treatment units at the point of entry into homes with lead plumbing should only be done under supervision of a qualified water treatment professional.

What Is Being Done

Elevated lead levels in customer's drinking water were found in samples of the City of Newark starting from January to June 2017 monitoring period and continued through the previous monitoring period from July to December of 2019. In order to bring the City of Newark water system back in Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) compliance, the City has undertaken the following steps:

The City initially initiated an eight-year program to replace all residential lead service lines from the water main to the water meter inside the property with State of New Jersey support, with a cost of up to \$1,000 to the homeowners. However, with additional expedited funding from Essex County, Newark now expects the Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) Program to be completed within thirty (30) months of construction with 100% replacement of lead service lines in the City of Newark for no charge to the homeowners. The City will continue to implement its LSLR Program regardless of whether or not it exceeds the lead action level.

The City has distributed approximately 40,000 lead safe water filters and 35,000 replacement cartridges boxes to the impacted residents free-of-charge

through distribution centers located throughout the City and door-to-door canvassing. Distribution efforts continue throughout the City. The City of Newark has evaluated our existing corrosion control treatment in both the Pequannock and Wanaque service areas by conducting a desktop study. Corrosion Control Treatment Study recommendations were submitted to the NJDEP and were approved by the State.

The City of Newark with the approval of the state has installed a Zinc Orthophosphate injection system for the corrosion control treatment at Valley Road Re-Chlorination Station. On May 7, 2019, the temporary zinc orthophosphate system was put to service. Currently the City of Newark is in the process of operating and submitting progress reports to NJDEP on a quarterly basis starting from August 1, 2019. The progress reports provide a determination of the effectiveness of zinc orthophosphate in the City's water distribution system. Sequential sampling of the water after the injection of zinc orthophosphate commenced in July 2019. Sequential sampling is the process of collecting a series of samples in a row at an interior tap to evaluate the water quality from the various portions of the plumbing and service line to the water main in the street. As anticipated, data indicates that the orthophosphate addition is reducing lead levels in the distribution system after approximately six (6) months of treatment. Reduced lead levels are observed in sequential sampling performed in October, November and December 2019.

The City strongly encourages residents to run their water including showering, flushing toilets and washing dishes in order to help coat the pipes and allow the new corrosion control treatment to optimize. The City will take the best course of action as soon as the City receives additional testing results. The City is working closely with the Governor's office, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the water filter manufacturer.

The City of Newark has undertaken a pipe loop study at the Pequannock Treatment Plant with representative samples of lead pipes. The main objectives of the study are to understand the transition from existing corrosion inhibitor (sodium silicate) to zinc orthophosphate and to determine the optimal ranges of chemical dosing and pH. The pipe loop study is currently commencing the study phase to compare different corrosion control parameters and optimize treatment.

The City of Newark has offered and is continuing to offer free blood testing to children under the age of 18 and offered and continuing to offer free water testing to impacted residents. The City is providing bottled water to

pregnant mothers and residents with children 6 years of age and under. Bottled water can be picked up at the following locations for qualified residents:

Department of Health and Community Wellness – 110 Williams Street
Shani Baraka Women’s Resource Center – 300 Clinton Avenue

Additionally, the City of Newark is conducting a comprehensive public outreach program in each ward to educate and update the Newark residents about this lead education and the steps the City is taking to combat with the lead exceedance.

For more information, call us at (973) 697-5458 or visit our website www.newarkleadserviceline.com. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA’s website at, <http://www.epa.gov/lead>, call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD or Safe Drinking Water Act hotline at 1-800-426-4791, or contact your health care provider.

Test your water for lead.

Contact us by email at waterandsewer@ci.newark.nj.us or call us at (973)733-6303 to find out how to get your water tested for lead and/or a service line inspection for free. You can check your water system’s analytical results and monitoring requirements (i.e., the frequency of sampling and number of samples) on New Jersey Drinking Water Watch at www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/waterwatch.

Contact us by email at waterandsewer@ci.newark.nj.us or call us at (973)733-6303 to obtain a translated copy of the public education materials or to request assistance in the appropriate language.

Póngase en contacto con nosotros por correo electrónico en waterandsewer@ci.newark.nj.us o llámenos al (973)733-6303 para obtener una copia traducida de los materiales de educación pública o para solicitar asistencia en el idioma apropiado.

Entre em contato por e-mail em waterandsewer@ci.newark.nj.us ou ligue para (973)733-6303 para obter uma cópia traduzida dos materiais de educação pública ou para solicitar assistência no seu idioma.

**Please share this information with all the other people who consume water provided by Newark Water Department, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing*

*homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail. **

FOR MORE INFORMATION

You can consult a variety of sources for additional information. Your family doctor or pediatrician can perform a blood test for lead and provide you with information about the health effects of lead.

Local government agencies that can be contacted include:

**City of Newark Department of Water & Sewer Utilities
(973) 697-5458**

**City of Newark Department of Engineering, Office of Uniform
Construction Code
(973)733-3695**

**City of Newark Department of Health & Community Wellness
(973) 733-5323**

**Brought to you by the City of Newark Department of
Water & Sewer Utilities**



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