

## What is being done

Elevated lead levels in customers' drinking water were found in samples taken from homes with lead service lines. Service lines in Newark are owned by the property-owner; therefore, due to the action level exceedance, we are only required to offer to replace 7% of the initial number of lead service lines annually at the cost of the property-owner. However, the City is conducting a Lead Service Line Inventory and implementing a Lead Service Line Replacement Program to assist property owners with the replacement of their lead service line at a reduced fee. In addition, the City will continue to implement its Lead Service Line Replacement Program regardless of whether or not it exceeds the lead action level. The City is also providing water filters and replacement cartridges to the consumers for the interim period.

In addition, we are evaluating our existing corrosion control treatment in both the Pequannock and Wanaque service areas. Corrosion Control Treatment Study recommendations were submitted to the State on December 30, 2017 and approved on April 20, 2018. A desktop analysis with corrosion control treatment was submitted to the State in October 2018 for the Pequannock service area. Additional analyses were conducted within the Wanaque service area and the final report is still being finalized. Following approval from the State, the City will implement the corrosion control treatment measures. However, filter and bottled water use should continue for those with known lead service lines and those not yet evaluated for lead service lines.

For more information, call us at (973) 697-5458 or visit our website [www.newarkleadservice.com](http://www.newarkleadservice.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](mailto: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.

Contact us by email at [waterandsewer@ci.newark.nj.us](mailto: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.

*Public Education Document*

*Revised 4/17/19*



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Council Member-at-Large

**Anibal Ramos, Jr.**  
Council Member, North Ward

**Newark City Hall**  
**920 Broad Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102**

## **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.

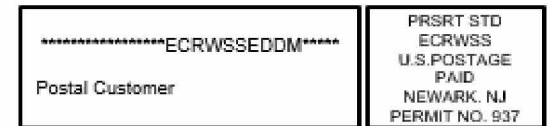
Local government agencies that can be contacted include:

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

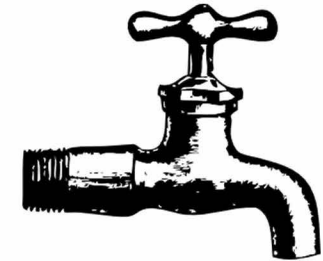
**City of Newark Department of Engineering, Office of Uniform Construction Code**  
**(973) 733-3695**

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

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



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



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

AN INFORMATIONAL GUIDE

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW



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

## 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.

### 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 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, and cosmetics. Other sources include exposure in the work place and exposure from certain hobbies.

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 lead that connect houses and buildings to water mains (service lines).

New 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 up 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 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 fairly high levels of lead.

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

**1. Replace your lead service line.** Elevated lead levels were found in samples taken from homes with lead service lines. The City is conducting a Lead Service Line Inventory and implementing a Lead Service Line Replacement Program to assist property owners with the replacement of their lead service line at a reduced fee. For more information, contact us at (973)733-6303 or go to [www.newarkleadservice.com/register](http://www.newarkleadservice.com/register).

**2. 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.

**3. 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](http://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 for 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 when using your filter.**

### **FILTER & REPLACEMENT CARTRIDGES PICK-UP LOCATIONS & HOURS**

#### **Tuesday-Friday 11am to 8pm, Saturday 11am to 6pm**

- Boylan Recreation Center – [916 South Orange Avenue](#)
- Vince Lombardi Center of Hope – [201 Bloomfield Avenue](#)
- Hayes Park West Recreation – [179 Boyd Street](#)
- John F. Kennedy Recreation Center – [211 West Kinney Street](#)
- St. Peter's Recreation Center – [378 Lyons Avenue](#)

#### **Sunday-Saturday 8am to 8pm**

- Water & Sewer Facility – [239 Central Avenue](#)

#### **Monday-Friday 8am to 4:30pm**

- Department of Health and Community Wellness – [110 Williams St.](#)

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](mailto: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](http://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.**

**4. 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.

**5. Run the water to flush out lead.** For residents not served by a lead service line, let the water run from the cold water tap before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in a faucet has gone unused for more than six hours. The longer the water resides in plumbing the more lead it may contain. Flushing the tap means running the cold-water faucet for about 15-30 seconds; however, let the water run from the tap based on the plumbing configuration in your home. 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. It usually uses less than one gallon of water.

**The above recommendation to flush the pipes before consuming the water is not recommended in the Pequannock service area for residences that receive, or may receive, water from a lead service line.** Flushing is recommended for residences in the Pequannock service area that do not have a lead service line and for all residences in the Wanaque service area, based on currently available data.

**6. Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Do not cook with or drink water 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.

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

**8. 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 eighteen 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.

**9. 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.