

## pH CHANGE TO CITY'S DRINKING WATER

*For Customers with Lead Service Pipes:  
Lead Levels Expected to Increase –  
Filters to be Provided*

The City of Thunder Bay is committed to providing high quality drinking water for all residents.

In the coming months, adjustments will be made to the pH of the City's drinking water.

Older homes and buildings which are serviced by lead pipes will be provided a water filter at no cost for one year. A letter will be provided to customers with a lead service pipe outlining how the water filters will be distributed.

The removal of lead service pipes remains a key priority in the City's Corrosion Control Plan, however, the full removal of lead service pipes will take many years to accomplish.

The City continues to work with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks and the Thunder Bay District Health Unit to evaluate further methods to reduce lead levels measured at the tap and update the City's Corrosion Control Plan.

For more information on the City's Corrosion Control Plan, visit:

[www.thunderbay.ca/leadpipes](http://www.thunderbay.ca/leadpipes)

For more information on the City's Drinking Water, visit:

[www.thunderbay.ca/drinkingwater](http://www.thunderbay.ca/drinkingwater)

## WATER QUALITY TESTING

Each year, the City of Thunder Bay sends more than 2,400 water samples to an independent laboratory to be monitored for potential contaminants. If you suspect you have a lead service pipe connection and are concerned about lead levels in your water, contact the Infrastructure & Operations Dispatch at 625-2195 to arrange a free test.

## CONTACT US

City of Thunder Bay's  
Infrastructure & Operations  
Dispatch  
807-625-2195

Victoriaville Civic Centre  
111 Syndicate Avenue S  
PO Box 800  
Thunder Bay ON P7C 5K4

[thunderbay.ca/drinkingwater](http://thunderbay.ca/drinkingwater)

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## IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE

### DRINKING WATER SYSTEM CHANGE - pH ADJUSTMENT



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## pH ADJUSTMENT TO DRINKING WATER

Adjustments to the pH of the City's drinking water will be made by phasing out the addition of sodium hydroxide. This change will occur over the next two to three months.

The pH of the drinking water will eventually return to the same level as in 2017.

## FLUSH YOUR TAP TO MAINTAIN WATER QUALITY

Water quality is monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week in the drinking water system. In order to maintain the quality of the drinking water coming out of the tap, all residents should routinely flush their water prior to consumption. Flushing can be done by taking a shower, flushing the toilet, doing a load of laundry or running your cold water tap for two minutes to clear the pipes.



## WATER FILTERS TO BE PROVIDED FOR CUSTOMERS WITH A LEAD SERVICE PIPE

Customers with lead service connection pipes, leaded-brass fixtures or lead solder can expect an increase in lead levels measured at the tap.

A water filter will be provided to customers with a lead service pipe at no cost for one year. These customers will be notified with a letter from the City in the coming weeks.

### How to tell if you have lead pipes:

Lead pipes are a dull grey colour. If you scrape the surface of the pipe gently, the metal beneath will be shiny and silver. If you are unsure if you have a lead service pipe connection, contact the Infrastructure & Operations Dispatch at 625-2195.

## HEALTH EFFECTS OF LEAD EXPOSURE

Lead found in drinking water can pose a significant health risk if too much enters the body. The population at the highest risk from lead exposure are infants, young children under the age of six and pregnant women.

For more information on health risks, please visit [www.tbdhu.com/health-topics/drinking-water](http://www.tbdhu.com/health-topics/drinking-water)



## SOURCES OF LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

Lead can leach into your drinking water through the corrosion of plumbing materials that contain lead, such as lead service pipes, lead solder and leaded-brass fixtures (faucets and valves).

Lead service pipes were typically used for homes and businesses prior to 1955.

## LEAD PIPE REPLACEMENT

When watermains are rehabilitated, the municipal owned portion of the lead service pipes connected to the watermain are replaced. The City encourages residents to replace their private portion of the lead service pipes at the same time.

For more information on the City's lead replacement program please visit [www.thunderbay.ca/leadpipes](http://www.thunderbay.ca/leadpipes)

