



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS REGARDING LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

What can I do if I suspect I have a lead service pipe and did not receive a notice?

You can arrange a free water test by calling the Infrastructure & Operations Dispatch at 625-2195. Each year the City of Thunder Bay sends more than 2,400 water samples to an interdependent laboratory to be tested for potential contaminants.

Do I need to filter water that may contain lead for cooking?

You should regularly flush your water prior to using it for cooking. You should also use the filter provided to further reduce lead exposure. In addition, use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water.

Can I brush my teeth with water that may contain lead?

Yes. But, residents are advised not to swallow the water unless they have flushed their pipes.

Is it safe to take a bath or shower in water that may contain lead?

Yes. Bathing and showering is safe for you and your children. Lead will not enter the body through the skin or by breathing in vapours while showering or bathing.

The removal of lead service pipes remains a key priority in the City's Corrosion Control Plan, however, the full removal of approximately 8,700 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.

MORE INFORMATION

City's Corrosion Control Plan:
thunderbay.ca/leadpipes

City's drinking water:
thunderbay.ca/drinkingwater

CONTACT US

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IMPORTANT UPDATE

DRINKING WATER SYSTEM CHANGE - pH ADJUSTMENT



pH ADJUSTMENT TO DRINKING WATER

An adjustment has been made to the pH of the City's drinking water by phasing out the addition of sodium hydroxide.

Before the Summer 2020, the pH of the drinking water will 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.

Flushing is particularly important for homes with lead service pipes.



LEAD & DRINKING WATER

The water produced by the Bare Point Water Treatment Plant does not contain lead nor does the water in the City's distribution system.

Lead enters the water when it sits still for long periods of time in lead pipes or fixtures.

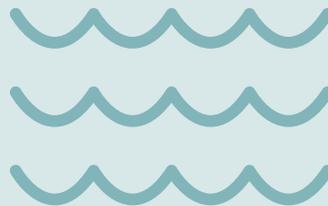
Lead can enter the drinking water in your home from the following:

- Lead service pipes, which were used before the mid-1950s, to connect your home's plumbing to the City's watermain
- Lead solder, which was used to join pipes together before the 1990s
- Leaded-brass fixtures, such as faucets and valves

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



WATER FILTERS PROVIDED TO 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, returning to the same level they were in 2017.

Customers with a lead service pipe have been notified by the City and provided a water filter at no cost for one year to reduce lead exposure.

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.

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

