

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER.

Two Rivers Water & Light found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes or 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.

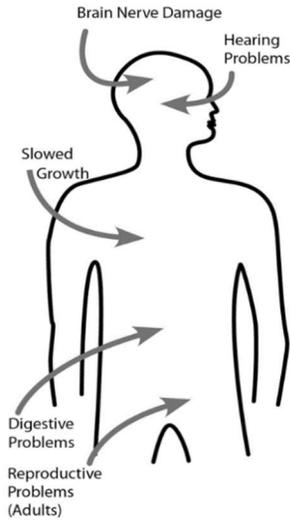
▶ Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body.

▶ 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, more than healthy adults at lower levels of lead. 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 while in utero, which may affect the child's brain development.

▶ Lead hurts the brain and other parts of the nervous system. Some of the health problems caused by lead poisoning may never go away.

- ▶ Lead in a child's body can:
- Slow down growth and development
  - Damage hearing and speech
  - Cause behavior problems
  - Make it hard to pay attention and learn



### Lead in Drinking Water

Drinking water is not your only source of lead exposure. But, combined with other sources, lead in water can increase the amount of lead in your body. The main way to come in contact with lead is through lead paint in homes built before 1978.

There are many other ways to come in contact with lead including through drinking water:

- Soil and tap water
- Toys and toy jewelry
- Pots or containers, candy and folk medicine made in other countries
- Work places where auto repair, construction and plumbing are done



### Sources of Lead in Drinking Water

Lead is rarely found in natural water sources like rivers or lakes. But lead can get into drinking water after the water leaves the treatment plant and is on its way to your faucets. This can happen through the wearing away of materials made of lead in household plumbing. These materials include brass faucets and lead solder on copper pipes. Sometimes, pipes made of lead may connect your house to the water main. These are called service lines.

Lead pipes are not installed for service lines or in household plumbing any more. The amount of lead allowed in plumbing materials has also been limited. These materials can still add some lead to drinking water. Even with these limits, some homes, especially older homes, may still have a lot of lead in their plumbing systems.



### Testing Your Water for Lead

Testing for lead can help you know if there is too much lead in your drinking water. Water testing is important because you cannot see, taste or smell lead. Labs that can test your water are listed at the end of this booklet.

▶ For more information on water testing, please call **920-793-5523**.

### Steps You Can Take to Reduce Lead in Your Drinking Water.

If a water test shows that the drinking water in your home contains high lead levels, take the following precautions:



#### Let It Run

Let your water run for at least 3-5 minutes before using it for drinking or cooking. Do this any time the water has not been turned on for more than six hours. If you have a lead service line, you may need to let the water run longer.



#### Use Cold Water

When drinking, cooking, or making baby formula use cold tap water. Never use hot water for preparing baby food. Hot water releases more lead from pipes than cold water. **Boiling water does NOT remove lead from water.**



#### Replace Plumbing Fixtures

Replace old plumbing materials with ones that are clearly labeled "lead free."

If a test shows your water has high levels of lead after you let the water run, you may want to take extra precautions.



#### Treat Your Water

Purchase or lease a home treatment tool. Point-of-use (POU) water treatment tools are designed to treat small amounts of drinking water. They can sit on the counter, attach to the faucet, or be installed under the sink.

All water treatment devices need regular care to work the right way. Not all water treatment devices are the same. Be sure to use a water treatment device made to reduce lead.



#### Use Bottled Water



## What Are We Doing?

We are investigating why there are high levels of lead in the drinking water. We will take corrective actions, which might include:

- Improving corrosion control treatment
- Flushing of the watermains
- Other actions as appropriate



## Find More Information About Lead.

Your family doctor can do a blood test for lead. Your doctor can also give you information about the health effects of lead.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services can give you information about the health effects of lead and how to have your child's blood tested.  
608-266-1865

The Manitowoc County Public Health Department can give you information about the health effects of lead and how to have your child's blood tested.  
920-683-4155



## Get Your Water Tested

Below is a list of some state approved places that you can call to have your water tested for lead.

- **Badger Laboratories, Neenah, WI**  
(920) 729-1100
- **Clean Water Testing LLC, Appleton, WI**  
(920) 733-7590

▶ For more information, call us at (920) 793-5523 or visit our Web site at <http://www.two-rivers.org/water/documents.php>.

▶ For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home or building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/lead> or contact your health care provider.

Two Rivers Water & Light  
1415 Lake St.  
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