



Other Options Consumers Can Take to Reduce Exposure

- Identify and replace plumbing fixtures containing lead or lead solder. Older faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as “lead-free,” may contribute lead to drinking water. The law previously allowed brass with up to 8 percent lead to be labeled as “lead free.” As of January 2014, faucets and fixtures must meet the new “lead-free” definition of having no more than 0.25 percent lead. If you are concerned about lead in tap water, you should consider replacing older fixtures.
- Clean your faucet aerators: You should also clean out your faucet aerators periodically because they can collect lead particles.
- Consider alternative sources or treatment of water. If your water contains lead, you may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. If considering a filter carefully read the package or check www.nsf.org to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead. Be sure to maintain and replace the filter in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions to protect water quality. If you are considering using bottled water, note that it may cost up to 1,000 times more than tap water. Simply flushing your tap is usually a cheaper and effective alternative.

How Are We Doing?

Our corrosion control treatment had helped reduce lead levels over time, but even though the MWRA regional system has been below the EPA Action Level since 2004, the most recent local sampling had results above the Action Level in too many homes. We are working with homeowners who have lead service lines to remove them and providing this information to help you reduce your risk at home. This past year, BWSC replaced over 300 private lead service lines. We are encouraging property owners to have the replacement completed by BWSC for free.

Please share this information on lead with all the other people who drink this water, 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

To find out more about what material your water service is, Call the Lead Hotline at 617-989-7888. For more information, visit our website at www.bwsc.org or scan the QR code below.



- EPA’s lead website at www.epa.gov/lead, or call the EPA lead hotline at 1-800-424-5323
- MassDEP’s website at www.mass.gov/service-details/is-there-lead-in-my-tap-water
- Department of Public Health’s website at www.mass.gov/orgs/childhood-lead-poisoning-prevention-program

 Boston Water and Sewer Commission
PWS ID# 3035000
617-989-7000 | www.bwsc.org

 Massachusetts Water Resources Authority
PWS ID# 6000000
617-242-5323 | www.mwra.com

This report contains very important information about your drinking water. Please translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.

Si usted desea obtener una copia de este reporte en español, llámenos al teléfono 617-788-1190.

La relazione contiene importanti informazioni sulla qualità dell'acqua della Comunità. Tra-durlo o parlane con un amico che lo comprenda.

O relatório contém informações importantes sobre a qualidade da água da comunidade. Traduz-a ou peça a alguém que o ajude a entendê-lo melhor.

Sprawozdanie zawiera ważne informacje na temat jakości wody w Twojej miejscowości. Poproś kogoś o przelustraczenie go lub porozmawiaj z osobą która je dobrze rozumie.

يحتوي هذا التقرير على معلومات هامة عن نوعية ماء الشرب في منطقتك. يرجى ترجمته، أو ابحث التقرير مع صديق لك يفهم هذه المعلومات جيداً.

Η κατορθέν αναφορά παρουσιαζή σπουδαιες πληροφορίες για το ποσιμο νερο σας. Πρακακλω να το μεταφρασετε η να το συολευασετε με καποιον που το καταλαβαινη απολητως.

Im Bericht steht wichtige Information über die Qualität des Wassers Ihrer Gemeinschaft. Der Bericht soll übersetzt werden, oder sprechen Sie mit einem Freund, der ihn gut versteht.

这份报告中有些重要的信息，讲到关于您所在社区的水的品质。请您找人翻译一下，或者请能看得懂这份报告的朋友给您解释一下。

この資料には、あなたの飲料水についての大切な情報がかかれています。内容をよく理解するために、日本語に翻訳して読むか説明を受けてください。

इस रिपोर्ट में 'पीने के पानी' के विषय पर बहुत जरूरी जानकारी दी गई है। कृपया इसका अनुवाद कीजिये, या किसी जानकार से इस बारे में पूछिये।

រាយការណ៍នេះមានព័ត៌មានសំខាន់ៗអំពីគុណភាពទឹកស្របក្នុងប្រទេសកម្ពុជា។ ប្រសិនបើអ្នកមិនយល់នូវអ្វីមួយក៏សូមសួរមនុស្សម្នាក់ដែលយល់រាយការណ៍នេះ។

이 보고서에는 귀하가 거주하는 지역의 수질에 관한 중요한 정보가 들어 있습니다. 이것을 번역하거나 충분히 이해하시는 친구와 상의하십시오.

Bản báo cáo có ghi những chi tiết quan trọng về phẩm chất nước trong cộng đồng quý vị. Hãy nhờ người thông dịch, hoặc hỏi một người bạn biết rõ về vấn đề này.

Ce rapport contient des informations importantes à propos de votre eau potable. Demander à quelqu'un de traduire ces informations pour vous ou discuter avec une personne qui

Important Information About LEAD in Your Drinking Water



 Boston Water and Sewer Commission

October 2025

 Boston Water and Sewer Commission

Why am I receiving this brochure?



Boston's water quality sampling taken of 33 homes during the fall of 2025 found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in 4 homes. Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC) found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings during the monitoring period of July 1, 2025, to October 31, 2025. 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.

BWSC's sampling results had a 90th percentile result of 22.5 parts per billion (ppb), which is above the lead Action Level of 15 ppb.

US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) require public water systems that exceed the lead action level to provide this notification to consumers. Lead is a health concern and is commonly found in the environment, most commonly in lead-based paint. Lead can also be found in water, though at much lower levels.

Please share this information on lead with all other people who drink this water, 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.

Why are there elevated levels of lead in the drinking water and what is being done to reduce the levels?

- The water provided by MWRA is lead-free when it leaves the reservoir. However, lead can get into tap water through lead service lines, lead solder used in plumbing, and some brass fixtures.
- MWRA and BWSC are concerned about lead in your drinking water. We have both an extensive testing program and have treated the water to make it less corrosive. Although most homes have very low levels of lead in their drinking water, some homes may still have lead levels above the US EPA and MassDEP Action Level of 15 parts per billion (ppb).
- To monitor lead levels, BWSC tests tap water in homes that are most likely to have lead. These homes are usu-

ally older homes that may have lead service lines or lead solder, and they must be tested after water has been sitting overnight. The EPA rule requires that 90% of these worst-case samples must have lead levels below the Action Level of 15 ppb.

- Starting in 1996, MWRA began adjusting the pH and buffering capacity of the water to make it less corrosive, and has steadily fine-tuned these treatments over time, thereby reducing the leaching of lead into drinking water. Due to this treatment change, lead levels found in sample tests of tap water from around the region have dropped by around 80 to 90 percent. Because lead levels in home plumbing can vary, individual homes may occasionally have higher test results.

Health Effects of Lead



There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Some of the health effects to infants and children include decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can also result in new or worsened learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy may be at increased risk of these harmful health effects. Adults have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems. Contact your health care provider for more information about your risks.

Sources of Lead



Lead can also be found in other household items such as pottery, makeup, toys, and even food. Lead paint was outlawed in 1978, but dust from homes that still have lead paint is the most common source of exposure to lead. Therefore, make sure to wash your children's hands and toys often as they can come into contact with dirt and dust containing lead.

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. Common sources of lead exposure are lead-based paint, household dust, soil, and some plumbing materials and fixtures.

The water provided by MWRA is lead-free when it leaves the reservoirs. Local distribution pipes that carry the water to your community are made mostly of iron and steel and therefore do not add lead to water. However, lead can get into tap water through a lead service line (if your home has one), lead solder used in plumbing, and older brass fixtures. Even though the use of lead solder was banned in the U.S. in 1986, it still might be present in older homes. The corrosion, or wearing away, of these lead-based materials can add lead to tap water, partic-

ularly if water sits for a long time in the pipes before use. Therefore, water that has been sitting in household pipes for several hours, such as in the morning, or after returning from work or school, is more likely to contain lead. If high levels of lead are found in drinking water, water may typically contribute up to 20 percent of a person's exposure to lead. However, infants who consume mostly formula mixed with lead-containing water, can receive up to 60 percent of their exposure from water.

Steps You Can Take to Reduce Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water



Use only cold, fresh water for drinking, cooking, and food preparation. Run the cold water tap for at least 1 minute or until after it turns cold, longer if you have a lead or galvanized service line, to flush out stale water as it may contain higher levels of lead.



Use only cold, fresh water for preparing baby formula. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula. Lead dissolves more easily into hot water.



Do not boil the water to remove lead. Boiling water will not reduce lead. Excessive boiling can increase lead levels as lead remains behind when the water boils away.

Test your water for lead. You cannot see, taste or smell lead in drinking water. The only way to determine the level of lead in drinking water at your home is to have the water tested by a MassDEP certified laboratory. For information on how to get your water tested, call or email the contact listed below or see www.mass.gov/certifiedlaboratories for a list of certified laboratories. The cost to test is usually between \$25 and \$50. Consider having your paint tested also.



Check whether your home has a lead service line. **IF YOU DO, HAVE IT REMOVED.** Contact us at 617-989-7888 or use the QR code to check if your home still has a lead service line. Please contact us for more information about your home's service line, how to have it replaced, or for information about plumbing materials in your home that may contain lead.

Contact your health care provider if you have any health-related questions, or contact your local health department to find out if your child needs to be tested for lead. A blood lead level test is the only way to know if your child is being exposed to lead. For more information on Massachusetts' childhood lead testing program, contact the Department of Public Health at 1-800-532-9571 or Boston Public Health Commission at 617-534-5395. See www.mass.gov/orgs/childhood-lead-poisoning-prevention-program.



NO COST Lead Replacement Incentive Program

BWSC encourages Boston's property owners to replace private lead water services through its Lead Incentive Replacement Program at no cost. Residents can also look up information about a lead service line at a particular property by using the interactive Water Service Map on the website at: <https://www.bwsc.org/environment-education/maproom/water-service-map>. For questions about the free lead replacement incentive program contact the BWSC Lead Hotline at 617-989-7888. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at www.epa.gov/lead, search for MassDEP lead or MDPH lead, call 1-800-532-9751, or contact your health care provider.