

### Why is lead in water a problem?

Too much lead entering your body from drinking water can cause health issues, especially in children. Children 6 years old and younger are the most susceptible. The greatest risk is to infants (particularly if they are drinking formula prepared with tap water), young children, and pregnant women. The effects of lead have been linked to lower IQs, and behavioral issues in children. Water that may contain lead would only be a danger if it is used for drinking or cooking. Human skin does not absorb lead in water.

### How do I know if there is lead in my water?

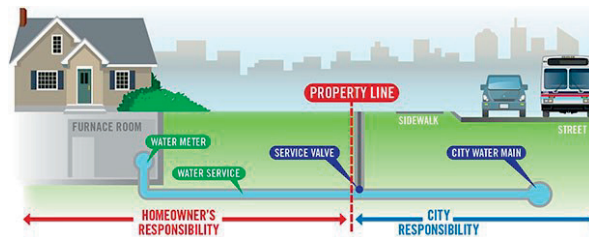
The only way to know whether your water contains lead is to have it tested. You cannot see, taste, or smell lead in drinking water. A laboratory certified by the Illinois EPA can be hired to analyze the water in your home. A list of those labs is available by contacting your local IEPA Regional Office, or your local water purveyor. When sampling drinking water, the water should be drawn from a kitchen faucet that has not been used for at least 6 hours. The aerator on the faucet should be removed and cleaned before the test sample is drawn. Special containers are used to collect the samples so that false readings are not given due to any contamination that may already be in a container.

You should consult with a licensed plumbing contractor if your water tests higher than the allowable level. For referrals of licensed, registered professional plumbing contractors in greater Chicago and the surrounding suburbs, visit [www.plumbingcouncil.org](http://www.plumbingcouncil.org) or phone 800-76-VALVE. In downstate Illinois call the Illinois PHCC 217-522-7219.

### What can you do to reduce your exposure to lead?

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act, the current USEPA action level for lead in drinking water is 15 parts per billion (ppb). If your water has continually tested above that level you may want to consider replacing your water service and/or plumbing system components that contain lead. **If you have recently had work done on your plumbing system or water service that contains lead, you may want to do the following:**

- ◆ Run your water to flush the system for at least 3 minutes before using it to drink or cook. This will help flush water that may contain lead from the pipes.
- ◆ Use cold water for drinking, cooking, or preparing baby formula. Do not cook with or drink hot water from the tap. Lead dissolves more easily in hot water. Boiling the water will not reduce the lead.
- ◆ Remove the aerator from the faucet and clean it. While the aerator is off, run the water to flush any debris.



### Consumer Acknowledgement & Release Form

I, the homeowner, acknowledge that I have received from my licensed Illinois Plumbing Contractor information regarding the potential of lead in my household drinking water. I further hold harmless said contractor with regards to any lead that may appear in my plumbing system following work performed by this contractor.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of Homeowner**

Address where plumbing work was performed:  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Name, address, and license number of the Illinois Registered Plumbing Contractor performing the work:  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
License#055-\_\_\_\_\_

Description of work performed:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Homeowner's Copy*

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Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
License#055-\_\_\_\_\_

Description of work performed:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Contractor's Copy*



***Keeping Lead Out  
of Our Drinking Water System  
is Serious Business***

### More information:

USEPA [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead)

### IDPH Lead Program

[www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/  
environmental-health-protection/lead-  
poisoning-prevention](http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/environmental-health-protection/lead-poisoning-prevention)

### Drinking Water Watch

[www.epa.illinois.gov/topics/drinking-  
water/index](http://www.epa.illinois.gov/topics/drinking-water/index)

### Centers for Disease Control

[www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/](http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/)

### IL Section American Water Works Association

[www.isawwa.org](http://www.isawwa.org)

### Plumbing Manufacturers Interna- tional [www.safeplumbing.org](http://www.safeplumbing.org)

### Plumbing Council Midwest

[www.plumbingcouncil.org](http://www.plumbingcouncil.org)

### Illinois PHCC

[www.ilphcc.com](http://www.ilphcc.com)

### PHCC National Association

[www.phccweb.org](http://www.phccweb.org)



PCA Midwest | The Plumbing Council

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800-76-VALVE

[www.plumbingcouncil.org](http://www.plumbingcouncil.org)



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# Lead in Drinking Water



## Could there be lead in your drinking water?

*Yes, there could be. The main sources of lead exposure for most children are lead-based paint, lead contaminated dust, and lead contaminated residential soil. Lead is rarely found in source water, but can enter tap water through corrosion of plumbing materials found in water services and premise plumbing systems. Homes built before 1986 are more likely to have lead pipes, fittings, fixtures, valves, meters, and solder. Elevated lead levels may occur if water is left standing in the pipes for several hours, or if the lead pipes are disturbed for repair work.*

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