



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DIVISION OF WATER SUPPLY AND GEOSCIENCE



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Lead in Drinking Water

Lead is not normally found in drinking water at the source. Typically, lead gets into your drinking water from the service lines, plumbing and fixtures that contain lead. As a result of corrosion, lead and other metals from the pipes slowly dissolve into the water. Many factors affect the amount of lead that leaches into the water, including lead content of pipes, fixtures, and solder, along with water temperature, pH and hardness. Lead is associated with adverse health impacts even at low levels, particularly in infants and children.

Additional information is available at the following links:



CONSUMER

(You are served by a community water system/are on city water.)

SCHOOL or CHILD CARE FACILITY

(served by city water.)

PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM

(Community or Non-transient non-Community.)

Flush your pipes before drinking, and only use cold water for cooking and drinking.
Anytime the water in a particular faucet has not been used for six hours or longer, flush your cold-water pipes by running the water until it becomes cold.

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Water Supply Home

Lead in Drinking Water - General Public

Drinking Water Customers

Flush your pipes before drinking, and only use cold water for cooking and drinking.

Drinking Water Systems

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Wells

Helpful Information:

NJ Geological and Water Survey

- [Frequently Asked Questions Protecting New Jerseyans from Lead in Water](#)
- [Drinking Water Facts: Lead](#) (NJDOH)
- Lead information from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 - [Lead Homepage](#)
 - [Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water](#)
 - [Protect Your Family from Exposures to Lead](#)
- [Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention](#) (NJDOH)
- [How to Identify Lead-Free Certification Marks for Drinking Water System & Plumbing Materials](#)
- [Home Water Testing](#)
- [Home Treatment Options](#)
- [Is There Lead in My Drinking Water?](#)

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Steps to reduce exposure from lead in drinking water

Exposure to lead at any level can be associated with adverse health effects. Therefore, consider taking the following steps to reduce your exposure to lead in drinking water.

- **Run your water to flush out lead.** Run water for 15-30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking, if it hasn't been used for several hours. This flushes lead-containing water from the pipes.
- **Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; Lead dissolves more quickly into hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
- Contact your water system or [certified drinking water laboratory](#) to have your home drinking water tested for lead. (Please note that the homeowner may be responsible for any costs.)
- **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead.
- **Use alternate sources or treatment of water.** You may want to consider using bottled water for drinking and cooking or a water filter designed to remove lead. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or www.nsf.org for information on performance standards for water filters. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's standards to ensure water quality.
- **Get your child tested.** Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about lead exposure.

Water System Sampling Results

Most water systems test for lead as a regular part of water monitoring. These tests give a system-wide picture and do not reflect conditions at a specific drinking water outlet

- NJ public water system sampling results may be found at [NJ Drinking Water Watch](#).
- You may also request a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) from your water supplier.

If you are uncertain who your water supplier is, look it up [here](#)

Who to contact if you are concerned?

- Your Water System should be able to answer any questions you have concerning lead in your water supply.
- Your health care provider (family doctor or pediatrician) can provide you with information about the health effects of lead and can perform a blood test for lead.
- The [NJ Department of Health website](#) can provide you with information about the health effects of lead.
- The National Lead Information Center at 800-424-Lead or the Safe Drinking Water hotline at 800-426-4791 can provide you with information on reducing lead exposure and the health effects of Lead.

What Steps is the Department taking to ensure the safety of public drinking water?

- [Determining water system compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule](#)
The Lead and Copper Rule (LCR)(56 FR 26460 - 26564, June 7,1991) is intended to protect public health by minimizing lead (Pb) and copper (CU) levels in drinking water, primarily by reducing water corrosivity. Pb and CU enter drinking water mainly from corrosion of Pb and CU containing plumbing materials. It is applicable to all community water systems (CWSs) and non-transient non-community water systems (NTNCWSs).
- Evaluating large water system compliance sampling



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Lead in Drinking Water - Schools and Child Care Information

NOTE: This page is intended for **schools served by public water systems** (aka "city water").

If your school is a Public Water System (Non-transient non-community) please refer to the "Public Water Systems" page.

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) regulates the public water systems that serve schools but does not regulate schools and child care facilities served by public water directly. However, NJDEP encourages schools to follow the recommendations developed by the US EPA that provide guidance for testing and reducing exposure to lead in schools and at childcare facilities. Lead is associated with adverse impacts even at low levels, particularly in children. Although schools and child care facilities (that are not public water systems) are not required to test for lead in drinking water, it is strongly encouraged. [View Guidance on Sampling for Lead in Schools](#). See the links below for information on testing and reducing exposure.

Helpful Information:

- **Environmental Protection Agency [Lead in Drinking Water at Schools and Child Care Facilities](#)**
 - **3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools**
 - [Introduction](#)
 - [3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools: Revised Technical Guidance](#)
 - [3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities Toolkit](#)
 - [Training, Testing, Telling \(3Ts\) Full Toolkit](#)
- [Drinking Water Best Management Practices For Schools and Child Care Facilities Served by Municipal Water Systems](#)

Water System Sampling Results

Most water systems test for lead as a regular part of water monitoring. These tests give a system-wide picture and do not reflect conditions at a specific drinking water outlet

- NJ public water systems sampling results may be found at [NJ Drinking Water Watch](#).
- You may also request a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) from your water supplier
- **If you are uncertain who your water supplier is, [look it up here](#).**
- If you are intending to sample your school's water for lead you should have a sampling plan in place first. [View Guidance on Sampling for Lead in Schools](#)

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