

# Concerned About Lead in Your Drinking Water?



This notice is brought to you by the Madison Heights Department of Public Services  
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Madison Heights has exceeded the action level for lead. Lead can cause serious health and development 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.

## Important Information about Lead in Madison Heights

Madison Heights is committed to delivering the highest quality drinking water. Madison Heights purchases its drinking water from the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA), whose water source does not contain lead. However, individual lead water service lines and other lead containing plumbing can be a source of lead at individual locations.

### What Happened?

Madison Heights annually conducts testing of tap water in homes for lead and copper. This summer, we collected samples from 30 homes with lead service lines. The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) notified Madison Heights on October 16, 2025, that our community had exceeded the Action Level (AL) for lead at 7 of the 30 homes with lead service lines sampled. Madison Heights issued a Public Notice (PN) on October 17, delivered consumer notices of lead and copper results to those residents/sites that were sampled, and will provide additional information to Madison Heights water customers and the county health department via our annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) no later than July 1, 2026.

The action level is 12 parts per billion (ppb) for lead and 1.3 parts per million (ppm) for copper. The action level is a measure of corrosion control effectiveness. It is not a health-based standard. To meet the requirements of the Lead and Copper Rule, 90 percent of the samples collected must be below the action level. The following table summarizes the lead and copper data from homes with lead service lines that was collected during the most recent monitoring period in Summer 2025:

Action Levels	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Value	Range of Results (minimum - maximum)	# of Samples Used for 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile
Lead 12 parts per billion (ppb)	18 ppb	0 - 33 ppb	30
Copper 1.3 parts per million (ppm)	0.1 ppm	0.0 - 0.2 ppm	30

### What is Being Done?

The Madison Heights Water Department is working to conduct additional lead and/or water quality monitoring, continuing our lead monitoring, and removing the lead service lines. We will collect 60 samples every six months and review the results to determine if corrective actions are necessary to reduce corrosion in household plumbing.

### Health Effects of Lead

There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health and development effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems. Although other sources of lead exposure exist, such as lead paint, and lead contaminated dust, Madison Heights is contacting you to reduce your risk of exposure to lead in drinking water. If you have questions about other sources of lead exposure, please contact the Oakland County Health Division at 248-424-7000.

## Sources of Lead

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. Drinking water is one possible source of lead exposure due to the widespread use of lead in plumbing materials. Homes with lead service lines are the most common forms of exposure. EPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20 percent or more of a person's potential exposure to lead. Infants who consume mostly mixed formula can receive 40 percent to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water.

Lead can enter drinking water when pipes, solder, home/building interior plumbing, fittings and fixtures that contain lead corrode. Corrosion is the dissolving, or wearing away, of metal caused by a chemical reaction between water and your plumbing. Several factors affect the amount of lead that enters the water, including the water quality characteristics (acidity and alkalinity), the amount of lead in the pipes, plumbing and/or fixtures, and the frequency of water use in the home.

Some plumbing products such as service lines, pipes and fixtures may contain lead. Older homes may have more lead unless the service line and/or plumbing has been replaced.

Homes built...

- **Before the 1950s** are more likely to have lead service lines, lead pipes, fixtures, and/or solder that contain lead.
- **Before 1988** are likely to have fixtures and/or solder that contains lead.
- **Between 1996 and 2014** are likely to have fixtures that contain up to eight percent lead but were labelled "lead-free."
- **In 2014 or later** still have potential lead exposure. "Lead free" was redefined to reduce lead content to a maximum of 0.25 percent lead in fixtures and fittings. Fixtures that are certified to meet NSF Standard 61 meet this more restrictive definition of "lead free."

Leaded solder and leaded fittings and fixtures are still available in stores to use for non-drinking water applications. Be careful to select the appropriate products for repairing or replacing drinking water plumbing in your home.

Galvanized plumbing can be a potential source of lead. Galvanized plumbing can absorb lead from upstream sources like a lead service line. Even after the lead service line has been removed, galvanized plumbing can continue to release lead into drinking water over time. Homes that have been or are served by a lead service line should consider replacing galvanized plumbing inside the home.

Drinking water is only one source of lead exposure. Other common sources of lead exposure are lead-based paint, and lead-contaminated dust or soil. Because lead can be carried on hands, clothing, and/or shoes, sources of exposure to lead can include the workplace and certain hobbies. Wash your children's hands and toys often as they can come in contact with dirt and dust containing lead. In addition, lead can be found in certain types of pottery, pewter, food, and cosmetics. If you have questions about other sources of lead exposure, please contact Oakland County Health Division at 248-424-7000.

## Particulate Lead

Lead results can vary between tests. A single test result is not a reliable indicator of drinking water safety. Two different types of lead can be present in drinking water, soluble lead and particulate lead. Soluble lead is lead that dissolves because of a chemical reaction between water and plumbing that contains lead. Particulate lead is dislodged scale and sediment released into the water from the sides of the plumbing and can vary greatly between samples. Disturbances, such as replacing a water meter, construction and excavation activities, or home plumbing repairs can cause particulates to shake free from inside pipes and plumbing. Particulate lead is a concern because the lead content can be very high. Lead particulate could be present in a single glass of water, but not present in water sampled just before or after. During construction, monthly aerator cleaning and using a filter certified to reduce lead are recommended to reduce particulate lead exposure.

## How Do I Know if I Have a Lead Service Line?

**Homes with lead service lines have an increased risk of having high lead levels in drinking water.**

**Madison Heights notifies houses with suspected lead lines annually. Please visit [madison-heights.org/lead](http://madison-heights.org/lead) for more information about your home's service line.**

If you are operating a food establishment such as a store, restaurant, bar, or food manufacturing establishment, please visit [Michigan.gov/MDARDLeadInfo](http://Michigan.gov/MDARDLeadInfo) for specific information for food firms.



# Check for Lead in Your Home Plumbing

Your home's plumbing and faucets could have lead. This lead could get into your drinking water.

Plumbing in houses built before 1988 and faucets sold before 2014 are more likely to have lead. Check your plumbing for lead and make an informed decision about how to prevent lead in your drinking water.

## Your home may have lead in the plumbing if it has one of the following:



- Lead or galvanized pipes
- A lead service line carrying water from the street to their residence; or
- Old faucets and fittings that were sold before 2014.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recommends that all residents across Michigan use a certified lead-reducing drinking water filter if their home has, or if they are uncertain it has, any of the things mentioned above.

## To identify the material your pipes are made of, follow these steps:

1

### Step 1: Gather what you need.

- A key or coin and a small magnet.
- Known location of the pipes and plumbing in your home.

2

### Step 2: Do a scratch and magnet test.

These steps can only help you identify the material of the part of the service line inside your home and your interior plumbing. In some cases, the part of the service line outside your property might be owned by the city and could be made from a different material. To know what material connects your service line to the public water supply, visit [madison-heights.org/lead](http://madison-heights.org/lead).

#### Lead



#### Lead pipes:

Scratch with a key—lead pipes will turn a shiny silver color and are easily scratched. Try the magnet—magnets will not stick to lead pipes.

#### Copper



#### Copper pipes:

Scratch with a key—copper pipes will turn a bright copper when scratched, like a new penny. Try the magnet—magnets will not stick to copper pipes.

#### Galvanized Steel



#### Galvanized pipes:

Scratch with a key—galvanized pipes are hard and look dull when scratched. Try the magnet—magnets will stick to galvanized pipes.

#### Plastic



#### Plastic pipes:

Scratch with a key—plastic pipes will sound dull when hit with the key and will not change color when scratched. Try the magnet—magnets will not stick to plastic pipes.

If you are not sure what material your service line is made of visit [Madison-Heights.org/Lead](http://Madison-Heights.org/Lead) for more information.

# Steps You Can Take to Reduce Your Exposure to Lead in Your Water

**1. Run your water to flush out lead.** The more time water has been sitting in your home's pipes, the more lead it may contain. Therefore, if your water has not been used for several hours, run the water before using it for drinking or cooking. This flushes lead-containing water from the pipes.

- *If you do not have a lead service line*, run the water for 30 seconds to two minutes, or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature.
- *If you do have a lead service line*, run the water for at least five minutes to flush water from both the interior building plumbing and the lead service line.

Additional flushing may be required for homes that have been vacant or have a longer service line. Your water utility can help you determine if longer flushing times are needed.

**2. Everyone can consider using a filter to reduce lead in drinking water.** MDHHS recommends that residents use a certified lead-reducing drinking water filter if their home has or if they are uncertain if it has:

- Lead or galvanized plumbing
- A lead service line carrying water from the street to their residence
- Copper plumbing with lead solder before 1988 (EGLE recommendation)
- Old faucets and fittings that were sold before 2014

Use the filter until you are able to remove sources of household lead plumbing like pre-2014 faucets or until you are able to get a lead inspection and replace needed plumbing.

**3. Use cold water for drinking and cooking.** Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily into hot water.

**4. Use cold water for preparing baby formula.** Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula. MDHHS recommends using bottled water or a filter certified to reduce lead to prepare baby formula.

**5. Boiling water does not remove lead from water.** Filter cold water, then boil the filtered water as necessary.



Look for filters that are tested and certified to NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for lead reduction and NSF/ANSI Standard 42 for particulate reduction (Class I). Some filter options include a pour through pitcher or faucet mount systems. Be sure to maintain and replace the filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to protect water quality.

**6. Consider purchasing bottled water.** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates bottled water. The bottled water standard for lead is 5 ppb.

**7. 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 exposure. Oakland County Health Division can be reached at 248-424-7000.

**8. Identify older plumbing fixtures that likely contain lead.** Older faucets, fittings, and valves sold before 2014 may contain higher levels of lead, even if marked "lead-free." Faucets, fittings, and valves sold after January 2014 are required to meet a more restrictive "lead-free" definition but may still contain up to 0.25 percent lead. When purchasing new plumbing materials, it is important to look for materials that are certified to meet NSF standard 61. The EPA prepared a brochure that explains the various markings that can indicate that materials meet the new "lead free" definition: [madison-heights.org/lead-free-fixtures](http://madison-heights.org/lead-free-fixtures).

**9. Clean your aerator.** The aerator on the end of your faucet is a screen that will catch debris. This debris could include particulate lead. The aerator should be removed at least every six months to rinse out any debris. Check out [madison-heights.org/lead](http://madison-heights.org/lead) for a how to guide on cleaning your aerator.

**10. Test your water for lead.** Call the Oakland County Health Department at 248-858-1280 to find out how to get your water tested for lead. Fees apply.

**11. Learn about construction in your neighborhood.** Construction may cause more lead to be released from a lead service line if present. We will provide you with notice if work is scheduled at your home.



## For More Information:

### Call:

- City of Madison Heights at (248) 589-2294
- National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD
- DHHS Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315

### Visit:

- [madison-heights.org/lead](http://madison-heights.org/lead)
- [Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe](http://Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe)
- [Michigan.gov/EGLEleadpublicadvisory](http://Michigan.gov/EGLEleadpublicadvisory)
- [EPA.gov/lead](http://EPA.gov/lead)

# Consumer Tool for Identifying Point-of-Use and Pitcher Filters Certified to Reduce Lead in Drinking Water

## Point-of-Use Filters

Point-of-use, or POU, water filters remove impurities from drinking water at the point that it is actually being used. Although there are others, the POU filters covered in this document are those used in filtration systems that are attached directly to water faucets or those inserted into refrigerators for water and ice dispensers.

### Faucet Filter Device



### Refrigerator Filter



## Pitcher Filters

Pitcher water filters remove impurities from drinking water and are those that are inserted into water pitchers and bottles.

### Pitcher With Filter



### Bottle With Filter



## Why is certification important for water filters?

Consumers can increase their level of confidence by purchasing POU and pitcher filters that have been evaluated by an accredited third-party certification body or bodies for drinking water lead reduction to 5 parts per billion (ppb) or less and particulate reduction (Class I) capabilities.

## How do I know if a filter is certified to reduce lead?

There are several American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited third-party certification bodies that evaluate POU and pitcher filters for lead reduction in drinking water. They each have unique certification marks (registered trademarks) that are used on certified products.

Certification bodies require their mark and a statement indicating testing against **NSF/ANSI Standard 53 along with a claim of lead reduction**.

It is recommended that you also look for filters tested against **NSF/ANSI Standard 42 for particulate reduction (Class I)**.

## Certification Marks

Below are the ANSI accredited third-party certification bodies' approved certification marks and the text that indicates a filter has been evaluated for lead reduction capabilities. Some filters can be certified by more than one certification body and have multiple certification marks.

**See page 2 for information on where to find marks and claims of reduction.**



NSF product listing directory



[info.nsf.org/Certified/DWTU/](http://info.nsf.org/Certified/DWTU/)



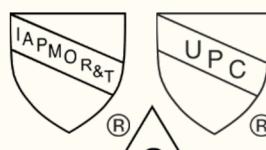
WQA product listing directory



[find.wqa.org/find-products/#/](http://find.wqa.org/find-products/#/)



IAPMO R&T product listing directory



[pld.iapmo.org](http://pld.iapmo.org)



UL Solutions product listing directory



[productiq.ulprospector.com/en](http://productiq.ulprospector.com/en)



CSA product listing directory



Drinking Water  
NSF/ANSI 53

[csagroup.org/testing-certification/product-listing](http://csagroup.org/testing-certification/product-listing)



Drinking Water  
NSF/ANSI 42

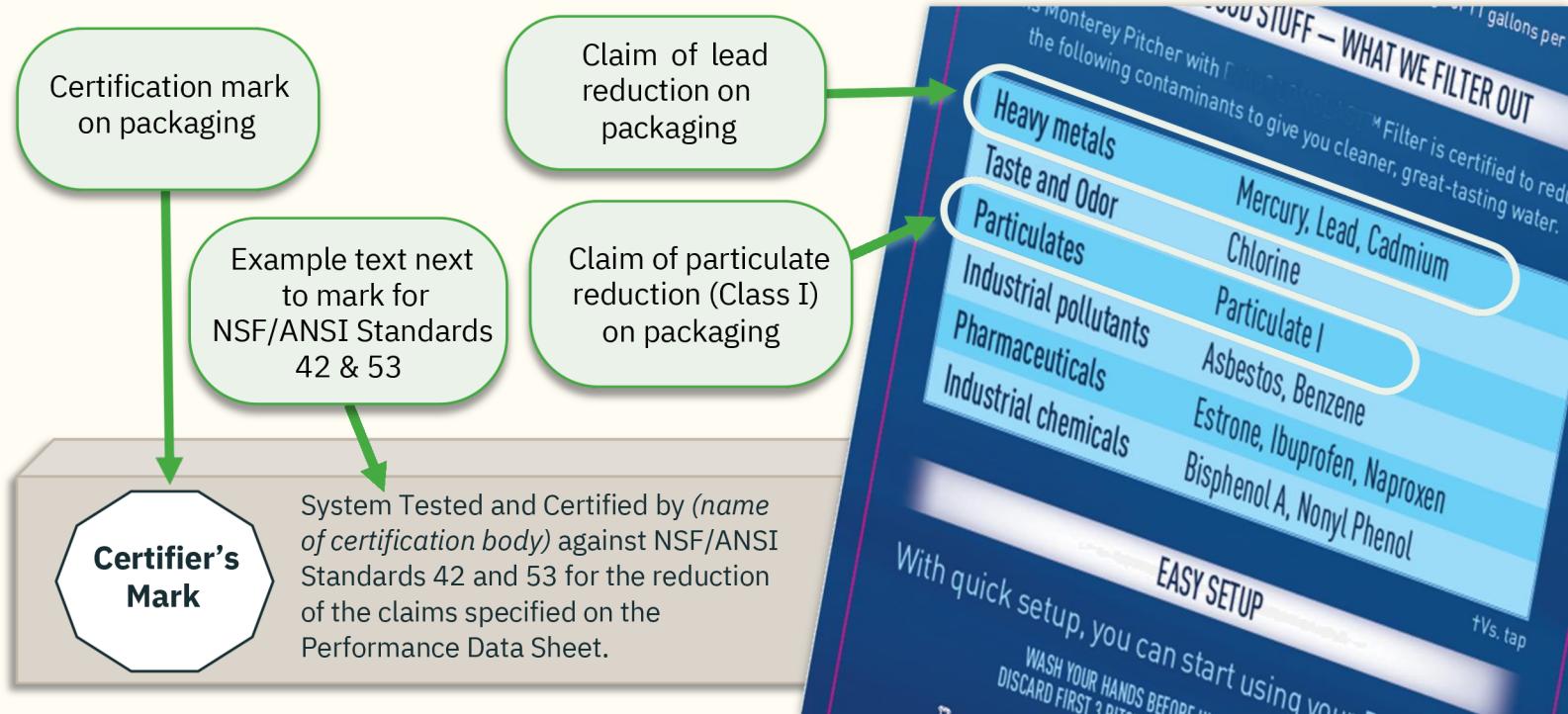
## Text for NSF/ANSI Standards 42 & 53 next to certification marks:

Example text on packaging:

- Tested and Certified by (certification body) against NSF/ANSI Standards 42 and 53 for the claims specified on the Performance Data Sheet.
- Some companies may indicate lead removal in the text or may simply state NSF/ANSI 53 or NSF/ANSI 42 above or below the mark.

## Certification Marks, Standards Text, and Claims of Reduction on Filter Packaging

Certification marks can be found on the filter packaging, the filter, or on the smallest container in which the filter is packaged. Examples of certification marks, NSF/ANSI Standards 42 and 53 text, and claims of lead reduction and particulate reduction (Class I) as found on product packaging are shown below.



## Claims of Reduction on Performance Data Sheets

Claims of lead reduction to 5 parts per billion (ppb) or less and particulate reduction (Class I) not included on the filter packaging can typically be found on the performance data sheet (example below) located inside the filter packaging, in the certifier's online product listing directory, or on the manufacturer's website.

The table is a Performance Data Sheet for a water filter, showing reduction claims for various substances under three NSF/ANSI standards: 53 (Health Effects), 401 (Emerging Compounds/Incidental Contaminants), and 42 (Aesthetic Effects). The table includes columns for Substance, Overall Percent Reduction, Influent Challenge Concentration, and U.S. EPA Level\*/NSF Maximum Permissible Product Water Concentration.

SUBSTANCE	Overall Percent Reduction	Influent Challenge Concentration	U.S. EPA Level*/NSF Maximum Permissible Product Water Concentration
<b>NSF/ANSI Standard 53 – Health Effects</b>			
Lead pH 6.5	99.5%	150±15 ppb	5 ppb
Lead pH 8.5	99.6%	150±15 ppb	5 ppb
Mercury pH 6.5	95.5%	6±0.6 ppb	2 ppb
Mercury pH 8.5	95.9%	6±0.6 ppb	2 ppb
Cadmium pH 6.5	97.4%	30±3 ppb	5 ppb
Cadmium pH 8.5	99.2%	30±3 ppb	5 ppb
Benzene	93.5%	15±1.5 ppb	5 ppb
Asbestos	>99%	55000000±45000000 Fibers/L	99%*
<b>NSF/ANSI Standard 401 – Emerging Compounds/Incidental Contaminants</b>			
Bisphenol A†	95.5%	2000±400 ppt	300 ppt
Estrone†	96.4%	140±28 ppt	20 ppt
Ibuprofen†	94.9%	400±80 ppt	60 ppt
Naproxen†	96.4%	140±28 ppt	20 ppt
Nonyl phenol†	93.5%	1400±280 ppt	200 ppt
<b>NSF/ANSI Standard 42 – Aesthetic Effects</b>			
Chlorine	97.4%	2.0±0.2 ppb	50%*
Particulate Reduction Class I	99.6%	>10000 particles/mL	85%*



### EPA's Lead in Drinking Water Website

[epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water](http://epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water)

### Questions?

About a filter: Refer to the certifier's product listing directory on page 1 or contact the manufacturer.

About this document: Send an email to [latham.michelle@epa.gov](mailto:latham.michelle@epa.gov) and [tully.jennifer@epa.gov](mailto:tully.jennifer@epa.gov)

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\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*\*

LOCAL  
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

NON PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION US  
POSTAGE PAID  
ROYAL OAK MI  
PERMIT NO 219



CONCERNED ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER?

# Sources of LEAD in Drinking Water

**Copper Pipe with Lead Solder:** Solder made or installed before 1986 contained high lead levels.

**Faucets:** Fixtures inside your home may contain lead.

**Lead Service Line:** The service line is the pipe that runs from the water main to the home's internal plumbing. Lead service lines can be a major source of lead contamination in water.

**Galvanized Pipe:** Lead particles can attach to the surface of galvanized pipes. Over time, the particles can enter your drinking water, causing elevated lead levels.

WATER METER

MAIN WATER LINE

**Lead Goose Necks:** Goose necks and pigtails are shorter pipes that connect the lead service line to the main.

For more information visit: [epa.gov/safewater](http://epa.gov/safewater)

This Public Education Notice has been sent to all residential homes and businesses connected to the Madison Heights water supply. To residential users, please share this notice with your neighbors. To all commercial properties, please post this notice for all those who may use the Madison Heights water supply while at your building(s).