

The city of Owosso conducts periodic testing of tap water in homes for lead and copper. We recently collected samples from 33 homes. The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy evaluates compliance with the Action Level based on the 90th percentile of lead and copper results collected in each round of sampling. The lead 90th percentile for the City's water supply is 21 parts per billion (ppb), which exceeds the Action Level of 15 ppb.

The "Action Level" is not a health-based standard, but it is a level that triggers additional actions including, but not limited to, increased investigative sampling of water quality and educational outreach to customers in accordance with the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act. The health-based standard for lead is 0 ppb; there is no safe level of lead in drinking water.

Because five sites were over the Action Level for lead, the city of Owosso would like to share some ways you can reduce your exposure to lead since lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water and other sources.

Lead can enter drinking water when in contact with pipes, solder, home/building interior plumbing, fittings and fixtures that contain lead. Homes with lead service lines have an increased risk of having high lead levels in drinking water. 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. Additional flushing may be required for homes that have been vacant or have a longer service line.

How to reduce your exposure to lead in drinking water

- Run your water to flush out internal plumbing.
 - 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 your home or building's plumbing and the lead service line.
- Consider using a filter to reduce the presence of lead in drinking water. Public health recommends that any household with a child or pregnant woman use cold water and a certified lead filter to remove lead from their drinking water, especially when preparing baby formula.
 - Look for filters that are tested and certified to NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for lead reduction.
 - Be sure to maintain and replace the filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to protect water quality.
 - If your household has a child or pregnant woman and are not able to afford the cost of a lead filter, please contact your County Health Department.
- **Do not use hot water** for drinking, preparing food, or cooking, or preparing baby formula.
- **Do not boil** your water as boiling will not reduce the amount of lead present in water.
- Clean your faucet aerator to remove trapped debris.

Check whether your home has a lead service line. The city of Owosso will soon send a comprehensive public education document about lead in drinking water. The city will soon


initiate collecting additional samples within the water distribution system (60 sites) every six months, and reviewing the results of this additional sampling to determine if corrective actions are/or not necessary to reduce corrosion and/or the presence of lead concentrations in household plumbing.

The Michigan Health & Human Services (MHHS) will be distributing free lead reducing filters if your household has a child or pregnant woman and are not able to afford the cost of a lead filter. **A drive through pickup will take place on Thursday October 29th 2020, between 4pm and 6pm in the municipal parking lot behind the vacant JCPenny Store.** After the pickup date, you may obtain a free filter by filling out a simple form available at the City Hall front desk during normal working hours.

If you are a city of Owosso customer and you think you may have a lead water service line, please contact the City Of Owosso via e-mail, at safewater@ci.owosso.mi.us or regular mail, to Lead Service Lines 301 W. Main St. Owosso, MI 48867. Please include best time to reach you, and your contact information.

If you are operating a food establishment such as a store, restaurant, bar, or food manufacturing establishment please visit this page www.michigan.gov/mdardleadinfo for specific information for food firms.

Additional information regarding lead can be found at the *CITY OF OWOSSO* website or at EGLE websites: Michigan.gov/egleleadpublicadvisory or Michigan.gov/MILeadSafe.

Is it OK to use lead-containing water to wash my hands?		
<u>Yes!</u> Human skin does not easily absorb lead from water.		
	<p>Even if you have lead in your drinking water, you can wash your hands with water that is not filtered or flushed.</p> <p>Public Health advises residents to wash hands often and for at least 20 seconds with soap and water to help prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).</p>	<p>You can use water that has not been filtered or flushed for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Showering or bathing (avoid swallowing the water) ○ Washing hands, dishes, or clothes ○ Cleaning
To learn more please visit, Michigan.gov/coronavirus or Michigan.gov/MILeadSafe		