

REDUCING POTENTIAL LEAD EXPOSURE FROM DRINKING WATER

State of Michigan

Environmental Assistance Center

800-662-9278 | deq-assist@michigan.gov

Flush your pipes before drinking. The longer water sits in your home's pipes, the more lead the water may contain. Anytime a faucet used for drinking or food prep has not been used for six hours or longer, you should run the water through ("flush") the tap. To do this flushing, turn on the cold water and let it run until it is as cold as possible. This should not take long (5-30 seconds) if there has been routine daily water use. If there has not been recent daily water use, it could take two minutes or longer. Your water utility can tell you if longer flushing times are needed.

Do not boil water to remove lead. Boiling will not remove the lead.

Clean your faucet aerator. The aerator on the end of your faucet is a screen that will catch debris. This debris could include particles of lead. The aerator should be removed at least monthly to rinse out any debris.

Use a filter. Make sure the filter is certified for lead removal. Be sure to replace a filter device as often as the manufacturer recommends. Contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or visit their website at www.nsf.org for water filter performance standards.

Consider replacing your kitchen and bathroom sink faucets. Most existing homes have leaded brass faucets unless they have been replaced since 2013. Any new connecting plumbing and fittings should also meet the 2014 lead-free definition. If you replace your faucet, buy a new one with pieces that meet the 2014 lead-free definition. These should be certified as lead-free by an independent testing agency. Learn more from the Environmental Protection Agency's Publication Center at 800-490-9198 and ask for the document entitled *How to Identify Lead-Free Certification Marks for Drinking Water System & Plumbing Materials* (number 600F13153).

Deep flush your cold water pipes after long periods of non-use. If you are moving into a new home or apartment, or moving back to a place of residence that has been unoccupied for some time, you should run all faucets an extended period of five minutes or more before using any water for drinking or cooking.

Learn about your drinking water supply. Read your community's Consumer Confidence Report that is mailed to you each year or can be found at your local water utility's website. If you wish to get your drinking water tested, use a certified lab. To find a certified lab, go to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's home page, www.michigan.gov/deq and search "certified lab list."

For further assistance, contact the State of Michigan Environmental Assistance Center at **800-662-9278** or deq-assist@michigan.gov. Hours of operation are 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.



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