

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

- A) City of Mendota found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings. Lead can cause serious health 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.

- B) Health Effects of Lead:
Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health 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 women 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.

- C) Sources of Lead
 - i) Lead is a common metal found throughout the environment in lead-based paint; air; soil; household dust; food; certain types of pottery, porcelain, and pewter; and water.

 - ii) Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like rivers and lakes. Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and household plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass and chrome plated brass faucets, and in some cases, pipes made of lead that connect your house to the water main (service lines). In 1986, Congress banned the use of lead solder containing greater than 0.2% lead, and restricted the lead content of faucets, pipes and other plumbing materials to 8.0%.

 - iii) Lead exposure can also result from lead-based paint; air; soil; household dust; food; certain types of pottery, porcelain, and pewter; and water.

D) If a water test indicates that the drinking water drawn from a tap in your home contains lead above 15 ppb, then you should take the following precautions:

- i) Let the water run from the tap before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in a faucet has gone unused for more than six hours. The longer water resides in your home's plumbing the more lead it may contain. Flushing the tap means running the cold-water faucet until the water gets noticeably colder, usually about three minutes. If your house has a lead service line to the water main, you may have to flush the water for a longer time, perhaps five minutes, before drinking. Although toilet flushing or showering flushes water through a portion of your home's plumbing system, you still need to flush the water in each faucet before using it for drinking or cooking.
- ii) Try not to cook with or drink water from the hot water tap. Hot water can dissolve more lead more quickly than cold water. If you need hot water, draw water from the cold tap and heat it on the stove. **DO NOT USE HOT TAP WATER TO PREPARE BABY FORMULA.**
- iii) Boiling water does not reduce lead levels.
- iv) Using a filter can reduce lead in drinking water. If you use a filter, it should be certified to remove lead. Read any directions provided with the filter to learn how to properly install, maintain, and use your cartridge and when to replace it. Using the cartridge after it has expired can make it less effective at removing lead. Do not run hot water through the filter. For more information on facts and advice on home water filtration systems, visit EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/home-drinking-water-filtration-fact-sheet> and EPA's [Consumer Tool for Identifying Drinking Water Filters Certified to Reduce Lead](#).
- v) Parents should have their child's blood tested for lead.

E) City of Mendota is focused on protecting the health of every household in our community; however, lead from service lines and lead plumbing and fixtures can dissolve or break off into water and end up at the faucet. We found that lead service lines and lead in plumbing fixtures are the main sources of lead in your drinking water.

City of Mendota balances water chemistry at the treatment plant to minimize pipe and plumbing components from corroding and leading to the possibility of lead dissolving into water. This process is known as corrosion control.

In addition to corrosion control, we are conducting additional lead and water quality monitoring of our water system supply. We are increasing our lead monitoring to determine the extent of the situation. We are removing the lead service lines, which is a common source of lead in drinking water. Our lead service line replacement plan can be found on our website at www.mendota.il.us/water-sewer.

- F) For more information, call us at 815-539-6307, or visit our Web site at www.mendota.il.us/water-sewer. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit USEPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/lead or contact your health care provider.
- G) The City has developed a plan for replacing the known and suspected LSLs connected to the City's distribution system. Currently The City has 109 known lines needing to be replaced. The City is expecting approximately 10% of the unknown Service Lines to be lead service lines (LSLs) or suspected lead service lines (SLSLs). The number of known lead service lines (LSLs) and suspected lead service lines (SLSLs) requiring replacement in the City's material inventory as of April 2024 was approximately 235: 109 LSLs and 126 SLSLs. This figure will likely decrease as inventorying efforts continue through resident surveys and potholing, planned for 2025 and possibly subsequent years as well, depending on funding availability.

The city inventory and lead service line replacement plan is available to view on our website, www.mendota.il.us/water-sewer.

If determined that a home\business has a lead service line, and that owner chooses to replace their side of the service line, the City of Mendota will replace the system side of that home\building.

- H) Lead can get into your water as it flows through your plumbing system. Corrosion can cause lead to leach from lead pipes, lead-based solder pipe joints, and brass alloy faucets. Low pH (acidity), low mineral content, and high salt content in water are common causes of corrosion. Lead pipes were used in water systems until the early 20th century. However, lead-containing solder, service lines, and plumbing components continued through the mid 1980's. In

1986, these were banned from new plumbing systems, but they remain in drinking water infrastructure and homes throughout much of the country.

The difference between low lead- and lead-free components primarily lies in the presence of lead in the solder alloy. Low lead components typically use a solder alloy with a lower percentage of lead, such as 60% tin and 40% lead, which is still considered lead based. In contrast, lead-free components use a solder alloy with no lead, such as SAC305, which is composed of 96.5% tin, 3% silver, and 0.5% copper.