

# Keep the Lead Out!

## Using Water Filters to Remove Lead



### Whether to use a filter

- Have your household water supply tested to see if it contains lead. Testing is easy and relatively inexpensive.
- If lead is detected, consider hiring a licensed plumber to look into the problem. Ultimately, removing the lead from your pipes and plumbing is the best way to protect your household.

### Choosing a filtration device

- There are three basic types of in-home water filters:
  - ◇ Pitcher-style filtration devices
  - ◇ Under-sink or in-line filters
  - ◇ Whole-house filtration systems
- If you only draw water for drinking and cooking (or formula preparation) from one source, such as the kitchen tap, a whole-house system probably isn't necessary. If your refrigerator has a water/ice dispenser, you can install a filter on that water line. In many cases, new refrigerators actually come with water filters.
- Remember, lead isn't absorbed through the skin, so there is no need to filter your shower/bath water.

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### What to know before making a purchase

- The most important step in choosing a filter to remove lead is to verify that it is certified for that purpose; verify all product claims before making a purchase decision.
- The non-profit NSF International tests and certifies water filtration devices for lead removal. NSF's website, [nsf.org](http://nsf.org), carries a guide specifically focused on lead devices.
- Water filtration systems are only effective if properly maintained. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on cleaning and/or replacing filters.
- Beware of door-to-door or telemarketing pitches. The City of East Moline will only drop by unannounced to collect water samples if there is a water main break that has affected your neighborhood. We will not stop by simply to discuss or recommend home treatment systems. Verify all product claims and investigate companies before making a purchase.

Remember: The best way to remove the potential for lead at the tap is to remove lead from your pipes and plumbing. Contact Leath Drake or Brianna Huber at 309-752-1520 to learn more about how to get the lead out!