



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

*The City of East Moline Water Filtration Plant found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and children 6 years and younger. Please read this notice closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.*

### *Health Effects of Lead*

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

### *Sources of Lead*

The primary sources of lead exposure for most children are deteriorating lead-based paint, lead-contaminated dust, and lead-contaminated soil. Exposure to lead is a significant health concern, especially for young children and infants whose growing bodies tend to absorb more lead than the average adult. Infants that drink formula prepared with lead-contaminated water are at a greater risk because of the large volume of water they drink relative to their body size. Lead is rarely found in source water, but enters tap water through corrosion of plumbing materials. To the best of our knowledge the water mains and treatment equipment owned and operated by the City of East Moline do not contain lead materials. However, service lines, owned by homeowners, that connect to the city's water mains and carry water from the water main to your home may contain lead. Homes built before 1986 are more likely to have lead pipes, fixtures and solder.

If you have children, particularly under the age of six, it is highly recommended that you have a lead blood test performed on them to determine their blood lead level. This can be done by your child's doctor's office or may be available at your local public health department or WIC location.

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

If the level of lead found in your home's drinking water is **above 15 ppb** or if you are concerned about the lead levels at your location, there are several things you can do:

- ***Run your water to flush out lead.*** If water hasn't been used for several hours, run water from your cold water kitchen tap or whatever cold water tap you use for drinking and cooking for **at least 3 minutes** (the water should get colder or reach a steady temperature) before using it for drinking or cooking. This will help flush lead-containing water from the pipes. To conserve water, you can fill and store multiple clean containers after flushing.



- *Bottled drinking water should be used by pregnant women, breast-feeding women, young children, and formula-fed infants at homes where lead has been detected at levels greater than 15 ppb.*
- *Use cold water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula.* Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
- *Do not boil water to remove lead.* Boiling water will not reduce lead.
- *Look for alternative sources or treatment of water.*
- *Test your water for lead.*

If you would like to have your water tested for lead, please contact the laboratory of your choice for instructions, sampling requirements and cost. The local laboratories that we are aware of that can provide this service are listed below:

QC Analytical Services, LLC  
1798 Iowa Drive  
LeClaire, Iowa 52753  
Phone: 563-289-3373  
<http://www.qcanalytical.net/>

QC Environmental  
17048 215<sup>th</sup> Street  
Davenport, IA 52806  
Phone: 563-386-7827  
<http://www.qcenvironmental.com/>

Please note that the City of East Moline does not endorse any particular vendor, organization, or agency. All information is provided as a courtesy to our customers.

- *Identify if your plumbing fixtures contain lead.* You can determine if your service line and plumbing fixtures contain lead by contacting your plumber to perform an inspection of your home's system. New brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," may contribute lead to drinking water. As of June 19, 1986, new or replaced water service lines and new household plumbing materials could not contain more than 8% lead. Lead content was further reduced on January 4, 2014, when plumbing materials must now be certified as "lead-free" to be used (weighted average of wetted surface cannot be more than 0.25% lead). Consumers should be aware of this when choosing fixtures and take appropriate precautions.

### *What Happened? What is Being Done?*

The City of East Moline Water Filtration Plant recently conducted lead and copper testing throughout our distribution system. Several years ago we worked with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to determine geographic areas throughout our city that are most likely to have lead service lines and then selected homes within these areas to test on a repeated basis every few years so that we can monitor lead and copper levels throughout the city over time. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has a set limit for lead that requires that no more than 10% of the homes tested be above 15 parts per billion (ppb). While we have not seen greater than 10% of sampled homes above the 15 ppb level in prior sampling years, this year we did.



We are working diligently to determine if there are measures that we can take to decrease the chances that lead from lead service lines will contaminate the water supply. We are evaluating our water treatment process and increasing water quality monitoring throughout the distribution system to ensure that residents continue to receive safe high-quality non-corrosive water. We are also conducting additional lead sampling at homes that are on our lead and copper sampling site plan as approved by the IEPA.

For more information call Leath Drake or Brianna Huber at 309-752-1520 or visit [www.eastmoline.com/182/Water-Filtration-Plant](http://www.eastmoline.com/182/Water-Filtration-Plant).

To learn more about reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead) or contact your health care provider.

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