

REDUCING POTENTIAL LEAD EXPOSURE FROM DRINKING WATER

Run your water before drinking. 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.

- **For homes with a lead service line or galvanized service line previously connected to lead, run the water for at least five minutes to flush water from both the interior building plumbing and the service line.**
- For homes WITHOUT a lead service line or galvanized service line previously connected to lead, run the water for 30 seconds to two minutes, or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature.

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

Use cold water for drinking and cooking. Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap. Lead dissolves more easily into hot water.

Use cold water for preparing baby formula. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula. If you have a lead service line or galvanized service line previously connected to lead, consider using bottled water or a filter certified to reduce lead to prepare baby formula.

Clean your faucet aerator. As part of routine maintenance, the aerator on the end of your faucet should be removed at least every six months to rinse out any debris that may include particulate lead.

Consider using a water filter. Read packaging to find a filter that meets NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for the reduction of lead. Be sure to maintain and replace the filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to protect water quality.

Consider replacing older plumbing fixtures that likely contain lead. Older faucets, fittings, and valves sold before 2014 may contain higher levels of lead even if they are marked "lead-free." Faucets, fittings, and valves sold after January 2014 are required to meet a more restrictive "lead-free" definition but may still contain up to 0.25 percent lead. Consider contacting a licensed plumber to have a plumbing assessment done. This can help determine if your in-home plumbing is a source of lead in drinking water.

Flush your pipes after long periods of non-use. If you are moving into a new home or apartment or 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. Read your community's Consumer Confidence Report by visiting the City's website at www.porthuron.org. If you wish to have your drinking water tested, call the St. Clair County Health Department or use a certified lab. Visit Michigan.gov/MILeadSafe for more information about sources of lead and what you can do to reduce your exposure.