

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

The City Of Le Roy Water 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.

What Happened? What is Being Done?

A change in the treatment process to improve water quality mandated the City by Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to increase our Lead and Copper sampling from 10 samples every 3 years to 40 samples every six months. This increase exposed us to more homes that potentially have lead in their home. The city has changed the corrosion control treatment that we use, to minimize potential corrosion of piping and fixtures that might contribute to high levels of lead in the water. Le Roy is actively replacing lead service lines when they are identified, and we provide the homeowners the opportunity to replace the portion of these lines that is the homeowner's responsibility at the same time.

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

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. Drinking water is one possible source of lead exposure. The main sources of lead exposure are lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust or soil, and some plumbing materials. In addition, lead can be found in certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics. Other sources include exposure in the workplace and exposure from certain hobbies (lead can be carried on clothing or shoes). Lead is found in some toys, some playground equipment, and some children's metal jewelry. Brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," may contribute lead to drinking water.

The current law allows end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 8 percent lead to be labeled as "lead free."

The source of water for the City of Le Roy does not have any lead in it or the water mains in the street. When water is in contact with pipes [or service lines] or plumbing that contains lead for several hours, the lead may enter drinking water. Homes built before 1988 are more likely to have lead pipes or lead solder. EPA estimates that 10 to 20 percent of a person's potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water. Infants who consume mostly formula mixed with lead-containing water can receive 40 to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water. Don't forget about other sources of lead such as lead paint, lead dust, and lead in soil. Wash your children's hands and toys often as they can come into contact with dirt and dust containing lead.

Steps You Can Take To Reduce Your Exposure To Lead In Your Water

1. Run your water to flush out lead. Run water for 30 seconds to 2 minutes to flush lead from interior plumbing or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking if it hasn't been used for several hours.
2. Use cold water for 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.
3. Do not boil water to remove lead. Boiling water will not reduce lead.
4. Look for alternative sources or treatment of water. You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or www.nsf.org for information on performance standards for water filters. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to protect water quality.
5. Test your water for lead. Health and Environmental Applications Lab (HEAL) **217-300-7420** Pace Analytical Services 800-752-6651
6. Get your child's blood tested. Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about exposure.
7. Identify and replace plumbing fixtures containing lead. Brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," may contribute lead to drinking water. The law currently allows end use brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 8% lead to be labeled as "lead free." Visit the Web site at www.nsf.org to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures.

If you are concerned, you might have a lead service line consult with a licensed plumber. Since the implementation of Lead and Copper sampling the city has continued to experience little problems. We envision that our increased sampling along with all of the improvements that we have made will eventually yield a return to the reduced monitoring.

If you still have questions call us at 309-962-3031 or 309-962-3901 or visit our Web site at www.leroy.org. We have a Frequency Asked Questions page for your assistance. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/lead or contact your health care provider.