

Important Information about Lead in your Tap Water

WILMINGTON TREATED WATER IS LEAD-FREE HOW CAN LEAD GET INTO MY WATER?

Lead can get into tap water if you have lead pipes, lead solder or brass fixtures in your home. Corrosion or wearing away of lead-based materials can add lead to tap water, especially if water sits for a long period of time in the pipes before use. The pipes that carry water throughout our community are made of iron, steel or copper and do not add lead to your water.

WHAT ARE WE DOING TO LOWER LEAD LEVELS AT THE TAP?

In 1994, we increased the lime dosage to adjust the water's pH and buffering capacity. This change made the water less likely to leach lead from the pipes and the Town met the 90% criteria of homes with lead levels less than 15ppb.

REDUCE YOUR POTENTIAL EXPOSURE TO LEAD

To reduce your potential exposure, you should always use cold, running water for drinking and cooking. You should buy plumbing fixtures that have zero or low-lead levels. Read the labels of any new plumbing fixtures closely, most contain lead.

- Run tap water until the water feels colder. Then fill a pitcher with fresh water and place in the refrigerator for future use.

- Never use hot water from the faucet for drinking or cooking, especially when making baby formula or food for infants. Boiling the water will not remove the lead.

- Call the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (1-800-532-9571) for health information, or visit their website: <http://www.mass.gov/dph>

- EPA Lead Information: <http://www.epa.gov/lead/leadinfo.htm>

Infants and children are more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. Lead levels in your home may be higher than levels in other homes in your community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning disabilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

If you are concerned about lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested at a state certified lab. (2 closest labs listed below)

- Thorstensen Labs Inc. 66 Littleton Rd. Westford, MA01886 (978) 692-8395

- Northeast Environmental Lab. 18 Riverside Ave. Danvers, MA01923 (978) 777-4442

Please do not hesitate to call the water dept. should you have any further questions at 978-658-4711
