

TIPS

FOR REDUCING POTENTIAL LEAD EXPOSURE FROM DRINKING WATER

Check for potential sources of lead inside your home.

Lead pipes and solder were officially banned in 1986 and more restrictive requirements for plumbing fixtures were introduced in January 2014. Still, fixtures may contain up to 0.25 percent lead. It's important to check your home for potential sources of lead. A licensed plumber can help you identify and remove lead plumbing and fixtures.

Stick to cold water.

It's best to use cold water when preparing baby formula.

Flush your lines 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 your cold-water before using it for drinking or cooking.

- If you **do not** have a galvanized service line, run the water for 30 seconds to two minutes, or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature.
- If you **do** have a lead galvanized service line, run the water for at least five minutes to flush water from both the interior building plumbing and the service line.

Clean your faucet aerator.

As part of routine maintenance, the aerator on the end of your faucet should be removed at least every 6 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. Boiling water will not remove the lead.

Learn about your drinking water.

Read our Water Quality Report at zeelandbpw.com/waterqualityreport. If you wish to get your drinking water tested, visit the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy home page, michigan.gov/drinkingwater and search "certified lab list."