

Immediate Notice
December 20, 2024

City of Troy Continues to Address Lead Pipes

Lead Action Level Exceedance Notice

DRINKING WATER WARNING

Sampling shows elevated lead levels in some homes.

City of Troy PWS found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings. City of Troy PWS may also have tested your home or building. If they did, you should receive or may have already received these results. These results are specific to your home/building and may be different from the results taken in other locations. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

What is an Action Level?

The lead action level is a measure of the effectiveness of the corrosion control treatment in water systems. The action level is not a standard for establishing a safe level of lead in a home. To check if corrosion control is working, EPA requires water systems to test for lead at the tap in certain homes, including those with lead service lines. Systems compare sample results from homes to EPA's action level of 0.015 mg/L (15 ppb). If 10 percent of the samples from these homes have water concentrations that are greater than the action level, then the system must perform actions such as public education, adjusting treatment, and lead service line replacement.

What Happened?

Between July 2024 and December 2024, we collected 69 samples and analyzed them for lead. The results of more than 10 percent of our samples exceeded the action level for lead.

City of Troy PWS is focused on protecting the health of every household in our community; however, lead from service lines and lead plumbing and fixtures can dissolve or break off into water and end up at the faucet.

Sources of lead

Lead is almost never present when water flows from the treatment facility and there are no lead pipes in our distribution system (the water mains running beneath the streets). More information can be found in **our annual water quality reports**. While there is no lead in Troy's water supply and distribution system, older homes (typically those built before the 1940s) may have lead in their water through two sources:

Water service lines, comprising the pipe that connects a building to the water system. Ownership of the service line is split between the city and the property owner.

Interior plumbing, comprising the pipes, fitting, and fixtures inside the building. Interior plumbing is the responsibility of the property owner.

We found that lead service lines, lead in plumbing, etc. are potential sources of lead in your drinking water. This does not mean that every property that receives drinking water from City of Troy PWS has lead in the drinking water. It does mean that you should understand how to reduce your exposure to lead through water. Keep in mind that drinking water is not the only potential source of lead exposure, since lead can be found in air, soil, and paint. For more information on all sources of lead, visit <https://www.epa.gov/lead>.

Health Effects of Lead

**Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems.*

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

Below are recommended actions that you may take, separately or in combination, if you are concerned about lead in your drinking water. The list also includes where you may find more information and is not intended to be a complete list or to imply that all actions equally reduce lead from drinking water.

- **Use your filter properly.** Using a filter can reduce lead in drinking water. If you use a filter, it should be certified to remove lead. Read any directions provided with the filter to learn how to properly install, maintain, and use your cartridge and when to replace it. Using the cartridge after it has expired can make it less effective at removing lead. Do not run hot water through the filter. For more information on facts and advice on home water filtration systems, visit EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/home-drinking-water-filtration-fact-sheet> and EPA's [Consumer Tool for Identifying Drinking Water Filters Certified to Reduce Lead](#).
- **Clean your aerator.** Regularly remove and clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator). Sediment, debris, and lead particles can collect in your aerator. If lead particles are caught in the aerator, lead can get into your water.
- **Use cold water.** Do not use hot water from the tap for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula as lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Boiling water does not remove lead from water.
- **Run your water.** The more time water has been sitting in your home's pipes, the more lead it may contain. Before drinking, flush your home's pipes by running the tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or doing a load of dishes. The amount of time to run the water will depend on whether your home has a lead service line or not, as well as the length and diameter of the

service line and the amount of plumbing in your home. Residents may contact us at **518-237-0343** for recommendations about flushing times in their community.

- **Learn about construction in your neighborhood.** Contact us at **518-237-0343** to find out about any construction or maintenance work that could disturb your service line. Construction may cause more lead to be released from a lead service line if present.
- **Have your water tested.** Contact us at **518-237-0343** to have your water tested and to learn more about the lead levels in your drinking water.

Get Your Child Tested to Determine Lead Levels in His or Her Blood

A family doctor or pediatrician can perform a blood test for lead and provide information about the health effects of lead. State, city, or county departments of health can also provide information about how you can have your child's blood tested for lead. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that public health actions be initiated when the level of lead in a child's blood is 3.5 micrograms per deciliter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$) or more. For more information and links to CDC's website, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>.

What is Being Done?

The City of Troy has recently upgraded its corrosion control treatment to add Orthophosphate. Orthophosphate severely reduces the leaching of lead from service lines into the drinking water entering your home. This process was started in August of 2024, within six months we should start to see a reduction in lead levels in our testing program of local residences.

The City of Troy has been awarded grant funding to assist the City in replacing lead service lines at no cost to the property owners.

The City of Troy is providing NSF/ANSI 53 certified filters with pitchers to residents who have a verified lead service line, free of charge. Please contact Troy DPU (518) 237-0343 for more information.

We are also responsible for maintaining an inventory of all service lines, so keep us updated if your service line changes.

For more information, please contact City of Troy PWS Lab at **518-237-0343**. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk from lead in drinking water are available from EPA's website <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>

water.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by **City of Troy PWS** State Public Water System (PWS) ID#: 4100050.

25 Waterplant Road Troy, NY 12182. Date distributed: 12/12/2024

