

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

## Reporting Requirements Not Met for Trenton Water Works Lead Service Line Replacement Public Notice

We violated a drinking water requirement. Our water system has not yet replaced a minimum of 7% of the lead service lines within the TWW service area within one year of a lead action level exceedance, thereby violating a drinking water requirement. Even though this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct the situation.

### What happened?

We routinely monitor for lead and copper at consumers' taps within our service area. The samples collected during January 1, 2017 to June 30, 2017 showed lead levels in more than 10% of the sites sampled were greater than the lead action level of 15 µg/L. We previously informed you of this exceedance in a notice issued on August 11, 2017.

As a result of the lead action level exceedance, we were required to replace 7% of the lead service lines in the distribution system annually. TWW has commenced the Lead Service Line Replacement Program; however, did not complete the replacement of the required 7%, or approximately 1,300, lead service lines by the deadline of June 30, 2018.

Therefore, we are required to continue replacing lead service lines until we satisfy the annual 7% lead service line replacement requirement. TWW is working with the State to demonstrate we are working towards complying with the Lead and Copper Rule.

### What is being done?

**This is not an emergency, if it had been you would have been contacted immediately.**

Over the past year, TWW has been reviewing old plumbing records to identify the lead service lines in the distribution system, including galvanized steel pipes with lead goosenecks and/or lead lining. TWW owns the portion of the water service line from the water main in the street to the curb, while the homeowner owns the portion of the water service line from the curb to the meter in the home. The Lead Service Line Replacement Program has commenced with "partial" replacements of lead service lines from water main to curb where the homeowner has previously replaced their portion of service line, from curb to meter, with copper. TWW will be replacing full lead service lines (from water main to meter) under the Lead Service Line Replacement Program at a discounted cost for approximately 2,600 (14%) homeowners from September 2018 through mid-2020. To find out more about this program, visit [www.twwleadprogram.com](http://www.twwleadprogram.com) or contact [twwleadprogram@trentonnj.org](mailto:twwleadprogram@trentonnj.org).

**Even though this violation is a reporting violation, if your residence contains a lead service line or interior lead plumbing or solder, we encourage you to take steps to reduce your exposure to lead in drinking water through the following steps:**

- Run water for 1 to 3 minutes or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using to for drinking or cooking, if it has not been used for several hours.
- Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.
- Remove and clean your aerators regularly.

- Boiling the water does not remove lead.
- Use alternate sources or treatment of water. You may want to consider using bottled water for drinking and cooking or a water filter designed to remove lead. 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](http://www.nsf.org) for information on performance of standards for water filters. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's standards to ensure water quality.
- Get your child 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 Lead exposure.
- Consider replacing your lead service line under the Lead Service Line Replacement Program or on your own. Visit [twwleadprogram.com](http://twwleadprogram.com) for more information on the program.

For more information, please contact Trenton Water Works at 609-989-3055, [twwleadprogram@trentonnj.org](mailto:twwleadprogram@trentonnj.org) or 333 Cortland Street, Trenton, NJ 08638.

*\*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 Trenton Water Works.  
State Water System ID# NJ1111001  
Date distributed: July 31, 2018

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

Trenton Water Works (TWW) 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.

### 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 work place 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. 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.

In Trenton, lead was commonly used in water service lines until 1960 and for indoor plumbing solder until 1986 when it was banned. Brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," may also contribute to lead in drinking water. The law up until 2014 allowed brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 8 percent lead to be labeled as "lead free." Current standards for "lead free" fixtures allow for no more than 0.25% of lead content.

**The Delaware River is the water supply source for TWW's Filtration Plant. When treated water leaves TWW's Filtration Plant, it is lead free. The water mains in the street that transport water from the Filtration Plant are made mostly of iron and steel and do not add any lead to the drinking water.** In TWW's service area, galvanized steel pipe lined with lead was commonly used until 1960 for water service lines which transport the water from the street to homes and buildings. When water is in contact with these pipes, lead solder and/or plumbing fixtures that contain lead for several hours, the lead may enter the drinking water. Homes built before 1986 are more likely to have lead solder than newer homes. The lead from a home's individual service line or interior plumbing affects only the tap water inside that home, and not the neighboring homes, since water travels only one way in home plumbing. By taking the following steps, you may reduce your exposure to lead from drinking water.

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

1. **Run your water to flush out lead.** Run water for 1 to 3 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](http://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.** Please contact the Trenton Water Works at 609 989-3055 or by email at [twwleadprogram@trentonnj.org](mailto:twwleadprogram@trentonnj.org) to find out how to get your water tested for lead at a certified laboratory.
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 your water service line, plumbing with lead solder or plumbing fixtures containing lead.** Water service lines in TWW's distribution system are owned by TWW from the main to the curb and owned by the individual property owners from the curb to the meter inside the home. Learn about the ongoing Lead Service Line Replacement Program at [www.twwleadprogram.com](http://www.twwleadprogram.com).

For additional information on how to identify lead service lines please see the enclosed flyer or visit our website at [www.twwleadprogram.com/check-your-line](http://www.twwleadprogram.com/check-your-line).

## **What Happened? What is Being Done?**

**During the monitoring period of January 2018 to June 2018, Trenton Water Works conducted routine water sample testing for lead.** Lead levels at customers' taps in the distribution system exceeded the Lead Action Level of 15 parts per billion (ppb) for the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile based on 102 samples of water in homes with lead service lines and/or copper piping with lead solder. This is the second exceedance of lead levels in the last two years based on three monitoring periods.

**TWW continues its efforts to upgrade the water treatment process and water distribution system to meet the State and Federal drinking water regulations and produce less corrosive water.**

**TWW is taking immediate and long-term measures to minimize lead levels** throughout the service area which includes Trenton, and parts of Hamilton, Ewing, Hopewell and Lawrence. TWW is currently:

- replacing lead service lines from the water main to the curb for those who have previously replaced the homeowner's side to copper.
- undertaking a Lead Service Line Replacement Program to replace approximately 2,600 lead services by mid-2020, including the portion of the service line, from the curb to meter, owned by the resident. Visit [www.twwleadprogram.com](http://www.twwleadprogram.com) to learn more about this program.
- implementing a corrosion control treatment study, which will help minimize the process of lead leaching into the water from the service pipes and lead soldering inside the homes and buildings.
- regularly sampling and testing the drinking water to monitor lead levels.

**Trenton Water Works is committed to providing clean and safe drinking water to its customers.** In addition to the above, TWW is making strides to improve treatment plant performance and water quality in the distribution system through optimizing treatment processes and aggressive cleaning and flushing programs.

## **For More Information**

Call us at 609 989-3055 or visit our website at [trentonnj.org](http://trentonnj.org). For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead) or contact your health care provider. You can also visit our website for the Lead Service Line Replacement Program at [www.twwleadprogram.com](http://www.twwleadprogram.com) to find out more about the program and identifying lead sources in your drinking water.

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