**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER**

Trenton Water Works (TWW) found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings in our community. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and children 6 years and younger. Please read the following notice closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water and to learn what TWW is doing to address this problem.

**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.

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 1987 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 steps below, you may reduce your exposure to lead from drinking water.

EPA estimates that 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.

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

1. **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. Information about how to identify the material of your service line, reporting this information to TWW,
and registering for TWW’s Lead Service Line Replacement Program can be found at www.twwleadprogram.com.

2. **Run your water to flush out lead.** Run cold water to flush lead from the lead service line and/or interior plumbing before using it for drinking or cooking, if it has not been used for several hours. Flushing the tap means running the cold water faucet for a duration of time based on the length of the lead service line and the plumbing configuration in your home. Although, toilet flushing or showering flushes water through a portion of the plumbing system, you still need to flush the water in each faucet before using it for drinking or cooking.

3. **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.

4. **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead.

5. **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.

6. **Test your water for lead.** Please contact the Trenton Water Works at 609 898-3055 or by email at twwleadprogram@trentonnj.org to find out how to get your water tested for lead by a certified laboratory.

7. **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.

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.

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

During the monitoring period of July 2018 to December 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 90th percentile based on samples of water in homes with lead service lines and/or copper piping with lead solder.

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 lead service lines including the portion of the service line from the curb to meter owned by the homeowner. Visit www.twwleadprogram.com to learn more about this program.
- Constructing a temporary corrosion control treatment (CCT) system which will add zinc orthophosphate to a portion of the water system. The addition of zinc orthophosphate will help minimize the process of lead leaching into the water from the service pipes and lead solder. The temporary CCT system will treat water that reaches the majority of TWW customers in the short term until a long term plan for corrosion control treatment for 100% of the water system is implemented.
• Regularly sampling and testing the drinking water to monitor lead levels.
• Holding public forums throughout the service area to answer TWW customer questions.

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. 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 or contact your health care provider. You can also visit our website for the Lead Service Line Replacement Program at www.twwleadprogram.com to find out more about the program and identifying lead sources in your drinking water.

This notice is being sent to you by Trenton Water Works.
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