



GLWA Statement on Lead and Copper Sampling Results

Communities in Michigan began conducting their first rounds of testing in 2019 using a new sampling protocol adopted in Michigan's revised Lead and Copper Rule. Samples from several municipal water systems show lead levels exceeding revised state standards.

It is important to note that the Great Lakes Water Authority, provider of water treatment for 112 municipalities in southeast Michigan, continues to have water of unquestionable quality, and that there is no lead in the water that the Authority distributes throughout southeast Michigan. GLWA remains committed to achieving and surpassing all regulatory standards. Further, GLWA tests its water multiple times each day, significantly exceeding state and federal testing requirements.

Michigan's new Lead and Copper Rule, adopted in 2018, requires that cities take and test more water samples—and sample more high-risk homes with lead service lines. This, coupled with new sampling procedures, is driving exceedances.

Possible sources of lead in drinking water include fixtures as well as lead service lines. Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass, and chrome-plated brass faucets and fittings and water service lines made of lead. More common sources of lead exposure include lead-based paint chips, dust, soil, and imported goods.

Communities with lead exceedances may choose to provide free water filter kits to their residents.

If your home has a lead service line, or has older fixtures that may contain lead, the following can help reduce your exposure to lead in drinking water:

- Replace faucets with those made in 2014 or later or marked “NSF 61/9”, as they meet stricter limits for lead content;
- Run the water for at least five minutes, in the morning or anytime water has not been used for six hours or more. This will flush water from your home's plumbing and the lead service line;
- Do not boil water to remove lead. Boiling will not reduce or remove lead;
- Use cold, filtered water or bottled water for preparing baby formula;
- Clean aerators. Aerators are small attachments at the top of the faucets that regulate the flow of water. They can accumulate small particles of lead in their screens. Aerators should be removed and sanitized monthly.



- Install a water filter that is certified to NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for lead reduction. The EPA also recommends the filter be certified for NSF/ANSI Standard 42 for particulate reduction (Class 1). If a water filter is installed, replace cartridges at least as often as recommended by the manufacturer.

To see the latest Lead and Copper testing results for your community's water supply, visit the State of Michigan's website, [Mi Lead Safe](#).

For more information on the Authority, please visit www.glwater.org.

About the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA)

The Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) is the provider-of-choice for drinking water services to nearly 40 percent of Michigan's population and efficient and effective wastewater services to nearly 30 percent. With the Great Lakes as source water, GLWA is uniquely positioned to provide those it serves with water of unquestionable quality. GLWA also has the capacity to extend its services beyond its 88 member partner communities. As part of its commitment to water affordability, the Authority offers a Water Residential Assistance Program to assist low-income households in participating member communities throughout the system. GLWA's board includes one representative each from Oakland, Macomb and Wayne counties, two representatives from the city of Detroit and one appointed by the Michigan governor to represent customer communities outside of the tri-county area.