

Steps to Get Ahead of Lead in Your Drinking Water

As a leader in the nation in lead exposure prevention, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recommends that Michigan households take the necessary steps to Get Ahead of Lead to stay safe and protect against the threat of lead in drinking water. Learn more about the statewide “Get Ahead of Lead” strategy by visiting Michigan.gov/GetAheadofLead.

MDHHS recommends that all Michigan households use a certified lead-reducing drinking water filter if their home has or if they are uncertain if it has one of the following:

- Lead or galvanized plumbing.
- A lead service line carrying water from the street to their residence.
- Old faucets and fittings that were sold before 2014.

Use a filter until you are able to remove sources of household lead plumbing, such as:

- Replace pre-2014 faucets.
- Get a lead inspection and replace needed plumbing.



How to reduce lead in drinking water

Use a point-of-use (POU) water filter. A certified lead-reducing filter can reduce lead in drinking water. Filters are made to reduce lead, but do not guarantee that all lead will be removed from drinking water.

A POU water filter reduces contaminants at the point water is being used, such as a faucet. Look for these certifications on the filter package: NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for lead reduction and NSF/ANSI Standard 42 for particulate reduction (Class I). It is important to follow the manufacturer’s directions. For more information on choosing a POU water filter, go to bit.ly/EPAFilterGuide2024. For technical assistance with installation, call MDHHS at 800-648-6942.



Consider replacing older plumbing, pipes, and faucets that may corrode and add lead to water. Older faucets, fittings and valves sold before 2014 may contain up to 8% lead, even if marked “lead-free.” Look for replacement faucets made in 2014 or later and make sure they are NSF 61 certified or marked to contain 0.25% percent lead or less. Check your plumbing or hire a plumber to know what parts should be replaced to reduce lead in your drinking water.

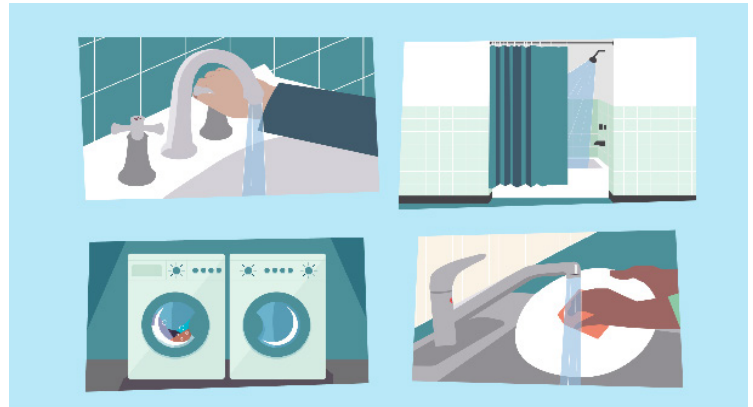


How to maintain fresh drinking water

Keep your water moving. You can keep your water moving by doing everyday activities such as:

- Running a load of laundry.
- Washing dishes.
- Taking a shower.
- Flushing the toilet.

Before using the water from any faucet for drinking or cooking, run the cold water until it goes from room temperature to cold.



Clean your faucet aerators. Clean the mesh screen, or aerator, on the end of your faucet at least once every six months. If construction is being done to the water system or pipes near your home—including water meter replacement in your home—check and clean your drinking water faucet aerator every month until the work is done. Go to bit.ly/mi-cleaningyoueraerators for more information.

Things you should not do to try to reduce lead in drinking water

Do not use hot tap water for drinking or cooking. Lead dissolves more easily into hot water.

Do not try to remove lead by boiling the water. Lead is not removed by boiling. Water evaporates during boiling, so the concentration of lead in the water may end up higher than before boiling.

Do not run hot water through your lead reducing filter. Use only cold water with a lead reducing filter.



For more information

MDHHS Care for Mi Drinking Water Website
800-648-6942
Michigan.gov/CareforMiDrinkingWater

Mi Lead Safe Website
Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe

Get Ahead of Lead Website
Michigan.gov/GetAheadofLead

Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
Michigan.gov/DrinkingWater
Michigan.gov/WaterWellConstruction

Laboratory Services
Michigan.gov/EGLElab and choose “Certifications”

List of Michigan Local Health Departments
bit.ly/MiHealthDepartment



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