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Wayne County Executive

Wayne County
Department of
Health, Veterans &
Community Wellness

Lead Reduction Information

How can I reduce lead in my drinking water?

Flush Your Pipes Before Using Your Water

If you have not used your water for several hours, flushing your pipes may reduce the amount of soluble (dissolved) lead in your drinking water. To flush the pipes in your home, do any of the following for at least five minutes:

- Turn a faucet on all the way until the water runs cold
- Take a shower
- Run a load of laundry
- Run your dishwasher

Before using the water from any specific faucet for drinking or cooking, run the water again until it runs cold. This flushes out any water that had been sitting in that sink's pipes and faucet.

Using a Filter Can Reduce Lead in Drinking Water

Both particulate and soluble lead can be safely removed from drinking water by using a water filter certified to reduce lead in drinking water. Look for filters that are tested and certified to NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for lead reduction. Follow the manufacturer's instructions to install the filter and maintain it.

Use Cold Filtered or Flushed Water for:

- Drinking, cooking, or rinsing food
- Mixing powdered infant formula
- Brushing your teeth

Do Not Use Hot Water for Drinking or Cooking

Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap. Lead dissolves more easily into hot water.

Clean Your Aerator

Aerators (the mesh screens on your sink faucet) can trap pieces of particulate lead. Clean your drinking water faucet aerator at least every six months. If there is construction or repairs to the public water system or pipes near your home, clean your drinking water faucet aerator every month until the work is done.

If you received a faucet-mounted filtration system and need assistance installing it, please call 734-727-7400.

When can I use water that is not flushed or filtered?

If you have lead in your drinking water, you can use water that is not flushed or filtered for:

- Showering or bathing (avoid swallowing the water)
- Washing your hands, dishes, and clothes
- Cleaning

How can I get my home's water tested?

Free water testing for Highland Park households is available. For more information, contact the **Highland Park Water Department's Customer Service Center at 313-865-1876.**

Where can I get my child and/or myself tested, and how much would it cost?

Local Provider

Contact your personal healthcare provider to arrange a lead screening and find out if there is a cost. Some private insurance policies cover the cost of the blood-lead level test.

Health Department

The Wayne County Health Department offers free blood-lead level testing for children covered by Medicaid, as well as children enrolled in the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program. **To schedule testing through the Health Department, please call 734-727-2208.**