

Public Service Announcement

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

Village of Herkimer 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 young children. Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in drinking water.

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.

The following are some of the steps you can take to reduce your exposure to lead in your water including:

- ***Run your water to flush out lead.*** Before drinking, flush your home's pipes for several minutes by running the tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or doing a load of dishes. The amount of time to run the water will depend on whether your home has a lead service line or not, and the length of the lead service line. Residents should contact their water utility for recommendations about flushing times in their community.
- ***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 in hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
- ***Do not boil water to remove lead.*** Boiling water will not reduce lead.
- ***Replace your plumbing fixtures if they are found to contain lead.*** Visit the NSF website at: http://www.nsf.org/newsroom/pdf/Lead_free_certification_marks.pdf to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures and how to identify lead-free certification marks on new fixtures.
- ***Use bottled water or use a water filter.*** You may consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF at 1-800-NSF-8010 or visit https://info.nsf.org/Certified/dwtu/listings_leadreduction.asp, for a consumer guide of approved water filters. In conjunction with flushing, properly operated filters are highly effective at reducing lead exposure. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to protect water quality. Any measure you take to reduce your exposure to lead should be continued until the lead source(s) has been minimized or eliminated.

Call us at 3158663303 For more information on lead in drinking water, contact your local health department at New York State Department of Health Herkimer District Office at 315-866-6879 or the New York State Department of Health directly by calling the toll-free number (within New York State) 1-800-458-1158, extension 27650, or out of state at (518) 402-7650, or by email at bpwsp@health.ny.gov. 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 call the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD.