

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

**ESTE INFORME CONTIENE INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE ACERCA DE SU AGUA POTABLE.
HAGA QUE ALGUIEN LO TRADUZCA PARA USTED, O HABLE CON ALGUIEN QUE LO
ENTIENDA.**

DEP requires all community water systems (CWSs) that exceed the lead action level in their 90th percentile value to distribute informational pamphlets on lead in drinking water to their entire service area, and target high-risk segments of the population (i.e., community members who are either more susceptible to the adverse effects of lead or who are at greater risk of exposure to lead in drinking water). The pamphlets are required to be delivered within 60 days after the end of the monitoring period in which the lead exceedance occurred.

The Municipal Water Authority of Aliquippa (MWAA) found elevated levels of lead in drinking water tap samples in some homes. Elevated levels of 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 your drinking water.***

What Happened? What is being done?

Beginning in 2020, MWAA made extensive efforts to identify lead service lines at residential sites across the system and identify locations for lead and copper rule compliance sampling and line replacement. One-hundred nineteen (119) residences with confirmed lead service lines were asked to participate in compliance sampling; thirty-four (34) residential customers agreed to participate in this sampling. Between June 2023 and September 2023, MWAA collected thirty-four (34) lead and copper samples and submitted them to an independent PaDEP accredited laboratory for analysis. Sampling results showed an exceedance of the 90th percentile action level for lead whereby five (5) of the 34 samples had concentrations that exceeded the EPA lead action level of 0.015 milligrams per liter. The 90th percentile lead level from this sampling was 0.0223 milligrams per liter. MWAA is actively conducting further investigation to identify additional residential homes to conduct lead and copper sampling; public participation in this voluntary sampling is encouraged for residential homes with confirmed lead service lines and/or interior lead plumbing.

MWAA has proceeded with steps to reduce the lead level, including analysis of water quality parameters at locations across the distribution system which will be utilized as part of a Corrosion Control Treatment (CCT) feasibility study. This CCT feasibility study will evaluate options to reduce corrosivity of the drinking water with the goal of lowering lead levels to achieve compliance with EPA requirements.

MWAA has commenced construction of a new Water Filtration Plant, which will replace the existing Water Softening Plant constructed in 1941. The new Water Filtration Plant is designed to reduce Iron and Manganese concentrations in drinking water to address “dirty water” complaints. Included in the Water Filtration Plant PaDEP Permit Application are provisions for corrosion control if necessary. Construction of the new Water Filtration Plant began in 2022 and is expected to be complete and operational by the fall of 2024.

The next round of lead and copper compliance samples will be completed by June 30, 2024. If the analysis results show that the lead concentration exceeds the 90th percentile action level (0.015 mg/L), MWAA will prepare an interim permit for submission to PaDEP for implementation of Corrosion Control Treatment Techniques.

Health Effects of Lead⁽¹⁾

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 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⁽¹⁾

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. Drinking water is also a 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. Brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as “lead-free” may contribute lead to drinking water. Until 2014, the law allowed end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets with up to 8 percent lead to be labeled as “lead-free.” When water is in contact with pipes, and plumbing containing lead for several hours, the lead may enter drinking water. Homes built before 1988 are more likely to have lead pipes or lead solder. EPA estimates that 10 to 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.

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.

Steps You Can Take to Reduce Your Exposure to Lead in Your Water⁽¹⁾

1. **Run your water to flush out lead.** Run water for 60 seconds to flush lead from interior plumbing or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking, if it hasn’t been used for several hours.
2. **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.
3. **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead.
4. **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.
5. **Test your water for lead.** Call us at [724-375-5525](tel:724-375-5525) to find out how to get your water tested for lead.
6. **Get your child’s blood tested.** Contact your local health department or health care provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead, if you are concerned about exposure.
7. **Identify and replace plumbing fixtures containing lead.** New brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as “lead-free” may contribute lead to drinking water. Until 2014, the law allowed end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 8% lead to be labeled as “lead-free.”

For More Information:

Call MWAA at [724-375-5525](tel:724-375-5525) or visit our website at www.aliquippawater.com. 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.

PWS ID#: 5040006 Date: 02/16/2024

Footnote:⁽¹⁾ “Important Information About Lead in your Drinking Water,” Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Safe Drinking water, 3930-FM-BSDW0137A.