

STEPS HOMEOWNERS CAN TAKE TO REDUCE THE RISK OF LEAD IN TAP WATER

There are several steps homeowners can take to protect themselves and their family from lead in tap water, regardless of whether they have a lead service line.



1 FLUSH BEFORE USING

Reduce the risk of lead in tap water by flushing your home plumbing before consuming water

- Even if you do not have a lead service line, plumbing fixtures like faucets, valves and solder can contain small amounts of lead, so flushing can still help reduce lead exposure.
- Let the water run from the cold water faucet for at least 5 minutes before using the water for drinking or cooking. The amount of lead in water can increase when the water sits in the pipes for several hours.
- The most important time to flush is after long periods of no use, such as first thing in the morning, after work, or upon returning from vacation.
- Periodically remove and clean the aerator on your faucets to remove any lead particles that may have accumulated in the aerator.
- To conserve water, other household water usage activities such as showering, washing clothes, flushing the toilet and running the dishwasher, are effective methods for flushing pipes and allowing water from the distribution system to enter household pipes.

2 USE COLD WATER

Hot water can dissolve more lead from the pipe

- When you need hot water to prepare food, drinks, or baby formula/baby food, use water from the cold water faucet and heat the water on the stove.

3 USE A HOME TREATMENT DEVICE

Purchase a home treatment device to reduce your exposure to lead (*and make sure it is independently certified and properly maintained*)

- Home treatment devices use various types of filter materials.
- The effectiveness of these devices in reducing lead can vary greatly, so it is important that the model you select is certified to reduce lead according to NSF/ANSI-53.
- Make sure to maintain the device as specified by the manufacturer. Failure to do so may result in exposure to higher lead levels.

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CONTINUED



LOOK AT YOUR WIRING

Have an electrician check your electrical wiring

- If grounding wires from the electrical system are attached to your pipes, corrosion inside the pipes may be increased.
- Do NOT attempt to change the wiring yourself — obtain the services of a licensed electrician.



HAVE IT CHECKED

Have water samples from your home analyzed for lead

- The City of Tulsa will analyze water samples from your home upon request. Contact the City of Tulsa Water & Sewer Department at 918-596-4384 for instructions.



CHOOSE LEAD-FREE PRODUCTS

Make sure plumbing products contain the lowest possible levels

of lead by purchasing replacement plumbing products that have been tested and certified to “lead-free” standards

- Look for plumbing products that are NSF-certified and meet Standard NSF/ANSI 61 and/or 372. These products have been certified to meet the new lead-free requirement.
- Products that have not been certified may still meet the new lead-free requirement. If consumers are unable to determine if a product is lead-free, they should contact the manufacturer to confirm the lead content.
- When repairing or installing new plumbing in old homes, use a licensed plumber and instruct him or her, in writing, to use only lead-free materials. When building a new home, be sure lead-free materials are used.