

**Transcribe this information to your letterhead and deliver in accordance with 40 CFR 141.85 and NJ section 3 of P.L. 2021, c. 82 (C.58:12A-12.4 et seq.)**

**In NJ this notice must be issued within 10 days of becoming aware of a lead action level exceedance.**

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

[System name] found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and children. Contact us at [insert phone number] to obtain a translated copy of the public education materials or to request assistance in the appropriate language.

Repeat the above statement in all languages predominantly spoken in the service area predominantly spoken in the service area - see the Division of Water Supply and Geoscience's Public Education Factsheet at <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/pdf/pe-fs.pdf>.

[Insert name of system] found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some buildings. This means that some water samples collected from customers' taps exceeded the lead action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb) from [SELECT ONE; 1/1/YY-6/30/YY; 7/1/YY-12/31/YY; OR 6/1/YY-9/30/YY] and this information is required to be sent because [name of water system] has a lead action level exceedance. The action level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. An action level exceedance is determined by measuring the highest concentration of lead in tap water that is exceeded by 10 percent of the sites sampled during a monitoring period (referred to as the "90<sup>th</sup> percentile"). If water from the tap does exceed the lead action level, then the water system must take certain steps to correct the problem.

Because lead may pose serious health risks, the EPA set a Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) of zero for lead. The MCLG is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety. 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.

**OPTION (if the water system or its customers lease any portion of the property served by the water system):** Landlords must distribute this information to every tenant as soon as practicable, but no later than three business days after receipt. Delivery must be done by hand, mail, or email, and by posting the information in a prominent location at the entrance of each rental premises, pursuant to section 3 of P.L. 2021, c. 82 (C.58:12A-12.4 et seq.).

We collected drinking water samples for lead on [date]. Below please find a chart illustrating the sampling locations and their results.

Sample Location	Result in ppb
<b>ADD ADDITIONAL ROWS AS NECESSARY</b>	

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### **Health Effects of Lead**

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 it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

In other words, it is the fetus that is at risk because developing fetuses receive lead from the mother's bones. Children and fetuses absorb more lead into their bodies than adults and are more susceptible to its effects on brain development; however, most children with elevated blood lead levels do not exhibit any symptoms, but effects may appear later in life.

### **Sources of Lead**

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. In addition, lead can be found in certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, cosmetics, imported spices and other food. Other sources include exposure in the workplace and exposure from certain hobbies like shooting ranges and fishing (lead can be carried on clothing or shoes). Lead is found in some toys, some playground equipment, and some children's metal jewelry.

Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like rivers and lakes. Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and household plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipes, brass, and chrome-brass faucets, and in some cases, pipes made of or lined with lead.

When water remains in contact with lead pipes or plumbing materials containing lead over time, the lead may dissolve into your drinking water. **This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning, or later in the afternoon if the water has not been used all day, may contain elevated levels of lead.**

- Homes and buildings in New Jersey built before 1987 are more likely to have lead pipes and/or lead solder.
- Service lines, which may also contain lead, are the individual pipes that run from the well to a home or building. The property owner is also the owner of the service line. Lead service lines are not typically found in non-community systems.
- Brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free", may also contribute lead to drinking water. The law currently allows end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, that contain a maximum of 0.25 percent lead to be labeled as "lead free". However, prior to January 4, 2014, "lead free" allowed up to 8 percent lead content of the wetted surfaces of plumbing products including those labeled National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certified. Consumers should be aware of their current fixtures and take appropriate precautions.

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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 may receive 40 to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water. When there are elevated levels of lead in your water, drinking water is likely to be a more important source of exposure.

### **Steps You Can Take to Reduce Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water**

1. **Remove if it is known there are no LSLs in your entire service area. Replace service lines containing lead.** Lead service lines in New Jersey are water supply connections made of, or lined with, a material consisting of lead, and which connects a water main to a building inlet. Lead pigtails, lead goosenecks, and other lead fittings are also considered to be lead service lines along with galvanized service lines.

2. **Find out if you have interior lead plumbing or solder.** If your home/building was constructed prior to 1987, it is important to determine if interior lead solder or lead pipes are present. You can check yourself, hire a licensed plumber, or check with your landlord. **OPTION:** We have evaluated our interior plumbing and have determined lead [is or is not] present.

3. **Replace plumbing fixtures and service lines containing lead.** Replace brass faucets, fittings, and valves that do not meet the current definition of "lead free." The current definition went into effect January 4, 2014; therefore, any "lead free" plumbing materials purchased and/or installed prior to that date should be discarded or replaced. Visit the NSF website at [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org) to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures. **OPTION:** We have evaluated our plumbing fixtures and have determined lead containing fixtures [are or are not] present.

4. **Run the cold water to flush out lead.** Let the water run from the tap before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in the faucet has gone unused for more than six hours. The longer the water resides in plumbing the more lead it may contain. Flushing the tap means running the cold-water faucet for about 15 to 30 seconds. Although toilet flushing or showering flushes water through a portion of the plumbing system, you still need to flush the water in each faucet before using it for drinking or cooking. Flushing tap water is a simple and inexpensive measure you can take to protect your health. It usually uses less than one gallon of water. **OPTION:** Since [we have a lead service line or until we determine if you are served by one], let the water run from the tap longer based on the length of the lead service line and the plumbing configuration in your home or building. In other words, the larger the home or building and the greater the distance to the water main (in the street), the more water it will take to flush properly.

5. **Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Because lead from lead-containing plumbing materials and pipes can dissolve into hot water more easily than cold water, never drink, cook, or prepare beverages including baby formula using hot water from the tap. It is recommended to use bottled or filtered water for drinking and preparing baby formula. If you need hot water, draw water from the cold tap and then heat it.

6. **Do not boil water to remove lead as it will not reduce lead levels.**

7. **Use alternative sources or treatment of water.** If there is confirmed or suspected lead-containing materials, such as a lead service line and/or interior lead plumbing or lead solder, in

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your home or building, you may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 1-800-NSF-8010 or [www.nsf.org](http://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 recommendations.

**8. Regularly remove and clean aerators/screens on plumbing fixtures.** Over time, particles and sediment can collect in the aerator screen. Regularly remove and clean aerators screens located at the tip of faucets and remove any particles.

**9. Test your water for lead.** Call us at [\[insert phone number\]](#) to find out how to get your water tested for lead. Testing is essential because you cannot see, taste, or smell lead in drinking water. [\[Include information on your water system's testing program. For example, do you provide free testing? Are there labs in your area that are certified to perform lead in water testing? Or directly refer to NJDEP's list of certified labs. The NJDEP Data Miner is a tool that can be used for assistance but be sure to include the direct link <https://www13.state.nj.us/DataMiner>. Once there, click Search by Category then select Certified Laboratories from the Report Category drop down box. Then click on the Submit button and under Certified Laboratories choose Drinking Water Certified Lead Labs.\]](#)

**10. Get your child tested.** Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about lead exposure. Your family doctor or pediatrician can perform a blood test for lead and provide you with information about the health effects of lead. Wash your children's hands and toys often as they can come into contact with dirt and dust containing lead. New Jersey law requires that children be tested for lead in their blood at both 1 and 2 years of age (12 and 24 months), and before they are 6 years old if they have never been tested before or if they have been exposed to a known source of lead. You can find out more about how to get your child tested and how to pay for it at <https://www.state.nj.us/health/childhoodlead/testing.shtml>. Children 3 to 5 years of age should also be tested if they have not been tested before.

The steps described above will reduce the lead concentrations in your drinking water. However, if a water test indicates that the drinking water coming from your tap contains lead concentrations more than 15 ppb after flushing, or after we have completed our actions to minimize lead levels, then we may take the following additional measures:

**12. Have an electrician check wiring.**

If grounding wires from the electrical system are attached to pipes, corrosion may be greater. If this is the case, we would need to check with a licensed electrician or our local electrical code to determine if our wiring can be grounded elsewhere. DO NOT attempt to change the wiring yourself because improper grounding can cause electrical shock and fire hazards.

**13. Water softeners and reverse osmosis units** will remove lead from water but can also make the water more corrosive to lead solder and plumbing by removing certain minerals; therefore, the installation of these treatment units at the point of entry into homes and buildings with lead plumbing should only be done under supervision of a qualified water treatment professional. **OPTION:** We will be evaluating our treatment unit to ensure it is optimized.

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### **What Happened? What Is Being Done?**

[If known, explain why there are elevated levels of lead in the system's drinking water] [Your system may also want to provide information on the history of lead levels in tap samples; have they declined substantially over time? Have they been low and risen recently? Is there a known reason for any change?]

[Explain what the water system is doing to reduce lead levels in throughout the distribution system.]

**OPTION:** We receive [some] of our water from [water system]; and therefore, we are evaluating the water quality entering our service area and working with [water system] on necessary steps

**OPTION:** [Insert information about the lead service line(s), is your water system planning on replacing it/them.]

[System name] is [increasing OR continuing] both monitoring efforts and public education about lead in drinking water.

### **Additional Information**

For more information, call us at [insert phone number] [or visit our website at [insert website].

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at, <http://www.epa.gov/lead> call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD or Safe Drinking Water Act hotline at 1-800-426-4791, or contact your health care provider.

This notice is being distributed to you by [system name], New Jersey Public Water System Identification Number (PWSID) NJXXXXXXX.

You can check your water system's chemical results and monitoring requirements (i.e., the frequency of sampling and number of samples) by searching the PWSID on New Jersey Drinking Water Watch at [www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/waterwatch](http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/waterwatch).

*\*Please share this information with all the other people who consume water provided by [system name], especially those who may not have received this notice directly. \**

Date Notification was distributed \_\_\_\_\_