



# Frequently Asked Questions About Lead in Flint Water



- Lead is hard to avoid completely. It can be found in old paint, water pipes and brass water faucets, in dirt, at some job sites, and in metal used for some hobbies.
- The amount of lead found in some Flint homes' drinking water could affect kids' health.
  - Even small amounts of lead can harm kids' health because they are little and still growing.
  - Adults are less likely to be harmed by the levels found in the water.
- Filter your drinking water using a NSF-approved filter.
  - Find a NSF-approved filter at [http://www.gchd.us/docs/lead\\_filter\\_information.pdf](http://www.gchd.us/docs/lead_filter_information.pdf).
  - If you use City of Flint water, you can call 211 to find out where you can pick up a free water filter.
- Some filters can remove up to 99% of the lead in water when used properly. To be sure your filter is removing as much lead as it can, carefully follow the instructions that came with it.
  - Change the filter cartridge as often as you should.
  - Run only cold water through the filter.
- Even after changes to the water system, it may take a while before lead levels in your home's water drop. Use the tips below to know when it's best to use filtered water:

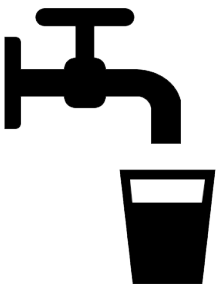
## Lead in Water

**Although your water may be a different color sometimes, it is not caused by lead. It's important to remember:**

- **You can't see, smell, or taste lead in water.**
- **Lead won't change the color of your water.**
- **The only way to know what your home's lead levels are is by having your water tested in a lab.**

**Please call the Flint Water Department at 810-787-6537 to request a free or low-cost water test.**

## In The Kitchen



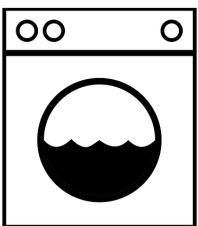
Use **filtered** tap water for:

- Drinking (including making coffee, drink mixes, juice, baby formula)
- Cooking (even if you boil the water, the lead will stay in the water and food)
- Washing fruits and vegetables

You can use **unfiltered** tap water for:

- Washing your hands
- Washing dishes
- Wiping down countertops

## Cleaning



You can use **unfiltered** tap water for:

- Mopping floors
- Washing clothes

Your washing machine and dryer won't put lead from the water into the air of your home.

## In the Bathroom



### Use filtered tap water for:

- Brushing kids' teeth

### You can use unfiltered tap water for:

- Showers
- Baths (don't let kids drink the water as they play in the tub)
- Brushing your teeth (if you are an adult)

Lead will not cause rashes or other skin problems. However, if chlorine levels or other cleaners are high in the water, it may cause itchy or dry skin (similar to what can happen when you swim in a pool).

## Caring for Pets



### Use filtered tap water for:

- Pets' water bowls

### You can use unfiltered tap water for:

- Baths

If you notice your pet acting differently than normal, please contact your vet.

## Other Sources of Lead in Your Home



### Lead Paint

- Homes built before 1978 likely have lead paint, both inside and outside.
- Old paint is the most common way that kids are exposed to lead.



### Dirt

- If you live in the city, there may be lead in the dirt outside your home.
- Before 1996, gas and the exhaust from cars contained lead. More lead will be found in dirt in busy traffic areas.



### Dust

- The dust in your home can contain tiny amounts of both the paint and the dirt that contain lead.



### Hobbies & Jobs

- Solder, fishing sinkers, bullets, and stained glass framing materials are some of the items in your home that may contain lead. You could also track home lead dust from your job site.

## Have Questions?

For more information about protecting yourself and your family from lead, please visit:

[www.michigan.gov/lead](http://www.michigan.gov/lead)

Or you can call the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services at:

**1-800-648-6942**

The staff at this number will help direct you to the best department that can answer your questions about lead in your home.

To request a free or low-cost water test, please call the Flint Water Department at:

**1-810-787-6537**

To find out if you can get a free water filter, please call 211.