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

5. Test your water for lead.

The best way to determine if your water has levels of lead is to get it tested. Visit elginil.gov/lead to receive information on how to get your water tested for lead, including information on the city's free lead testing program.

6. Get your child's blood 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 exposure.

7. Identify and replace plumbing fixtures containing lead.

Brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead free," may contribute lead to drinking water. The law currently allows end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 0.25% lead to be labeled as "lead free."

Visit the website at www.nsf.org to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures.

What Happened? What is Being Done?

The city takes 100 samples every six months as part of its routine water quality sampling. Citywide notifications are issued if over 10% of the sites exceed a lead concentration of 15 parts per billion (ppb).

The city conducted routine water quality sampling during July-December 2024. The analysis of these samples found that 67 sites from a sampling pool of 100 homes exceeded a lead concentration of 15 ppb, resulting in a 90th percentile value of 54.0 ppb and a lead action level exceedance for this monitoring period.

The recent test results appear higher due to a federally mandated change in sampling protocols, not changes in water quality. Previously, "first draw" samples tested water from interior plumbing, which typically contains minimal lead. The new "fifth liter" protocol tests water from exterior, underground lead service lines in front or side yards connecting to the water main in the street, which can increase lead levels. Homes with lead service lines are advised to flush their water for at least five minutes before use to reduce lead exposure.

The city in 2018 identified approximately 13,000 lead service lines for replacement with a cost of at least $150 million. Today, about 9,260 lead service lines still need to be replaced. There are approximately 1,500 service lines with unknown material status that may also require replacement.

The city completed a Corrosion Control Study (CCS) that was submitted and approved by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). The city is currently working on implementing the approved modifications to the water treatment process that will help minimize the incidence of lead in service lines until the lines are ultimately replaced.

What Happened? What is Being Done? (continued)

The city launched an interactive online dashboard to help educate the community about lead service lines. Residents can search for service line material by address at elginil.gov/lead. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home visit EPA.gov/lead.

How the City of Elgin Reduces Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water:

- For the past 11 years, the city has been replacing the public portion of a lead water service line (water main to underground shut-off valve) when residents commit to replacing their privately-owned portion of the lead service line (underground shut-off valve to home/building).
- In 2018, the city created a new program for replacing the public and private portions of lead water service lines at properties impacted by underground construction.
- The city actively manages drinking water from the water treatment plants and in the water distribution system to maintain the effectiveness of the city's corrosion control treatment.

For More Information

Call 311 or visit elginil.gov/lead.

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.

This notice is brought to you by the City of Elgin. State Water System ID# IL0894380. January 2025

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT ELGIN'S DRINKING WATER

WHY AM I RECEIVING THIS NOTICE?

The city of Elgin provides clean, safe, and reliable drinking water to all Elgin residents. Lead is not present in Elgin's treated drinking water. Some homes and buildings, however, have water service lines, solder, and fixtures made of lead.

The city recently found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes and buildings. The city takes samples every six months as part of its routine water quality sampling. Citywide notifications are issued if over 10% of the sites exceed a lead concentration of 15 parts per billion (ppb).

Not sure if you have a lead service line? Visit elginil.gov/lead to view our interactive map and type in your address to find out.

ELGIN
THE CITY IN THE SUBURBS

The city of Elgin is committed to providing clean, safe and reliable drinking water to all Elgin residents. Lead is not present in Elgin's source water (wells and river water), nor is lead in Elgin's treated drinking water.

Some homes and buildings, however, have water service lines, solder or fixtures made of lead, and lead can enter the drinking water through the corrosion of plumbing materials.

Water Quality Sampling

The city is required to test tap water in homes throughout the area known to have lead. These homes are usually older homes that may have lead service lines or lead solder and are intentionally tested after water has been sitting for six hours or longer.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rule requires that 90% of these worst-case samples must have lead levels below the action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb).

During water quality sampling taken in the second monitoring period of 2024, elevated levels of lead were found in some of the homes/buildings sampled.

You are receiving this brochure to inform your household on what you can do to reduce exposure to lead in your drinking water.

Important Information about Lead in Your Drinking Water

Recent drinking water quality monitoring conducted by the city of Elgin has found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes and buildings in Elgin. The source of this lead is likely lead service lines leading from the city's municipal water pipes to homes of Elgin residents.

Lead is not present in Elgin's source water (wells and river water), nor is lead in Elgin's treated drinking water. Some homes and buildings, however, have water service lines, solder or fixtures made of lead, and lead can enter the drinking water through the corrosion of plumbing materials.

The results from the drinking water monitoring are representative of the homes and buildings most at-risk for lead in water–those built or plumbed before 1988. Lead can enter the drinking water through the corrosion of plumbing materials.

Health Effects of Lead

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in intelligence quotient (IQ) and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems.

Sources of Lead

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. Common sources of lead exposure are lead-based paint, household dust, soil and some plumbing materials including faucets purchased before January 2014.

Lead can also be found in other household items such as pottery, makeup, toys and even food. Lead paint was outlawed in 1978, but dust from homes that still have lead paint is the most common exposure to lead.

The water provided by the city of Elgin is lead-free. The distribution pipes that carry water to the entire community do not contain lead. Lead gets into drinking water when it comes into contact with lead service lines, lead solder or fixtures that contain lead. Use of lead solder was banned in the U.S. in 1986, but it may still be present in newer homes.

The corrosion or wearing of these lead-based materials can add lead in potable water, particularly if water sits for a long period of time in the pipes before use.

Water that has been sitting in household pipes for several hours, overnight or after returning from work or school, is more likely to contain lead.

If high levels of lead are found in drinking water, the water may contribute 20 percent or more of a person's exposure to lead. Infants who consume formula mixed with water containing lead can receive up to 60 percent of their exposure from water.

Steps You Can Take to Reduce Your Exposure to Lead in Your Water

1. **Look for alternative drinking water sources or treatment of water.**

   The city recommends using a water filter certified to NSF/ASNI standard 42 for particulate reduction in addition to NSF/ANSI 53 for removal of lead if your home contains lead plumbing, particularly for formula-fed infants and vulnerable populations. Visit elginil.gov/lead for information about the city's free water filter program.

2. **Run your water to flush out lead.**

   When your drinking water faucets have not been used for several hours, run the water for at least five minutes before using it for drinking or cooking. This will flush any lead that may be present in the interior plumbing.

3. **Use cold water for cooking.**

4. **Do not boil water to remove lead.**
   Boiling water will not reduce lead.