

Important Information about Lead in Your Drinking Water

SUEZ Water New Jersey Hackensack has found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings. 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.

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, a child receives lead from a mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

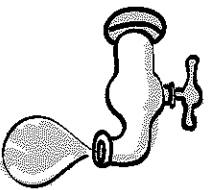
Sources of Lead

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, and some plumbing materials. 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. 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 pipe, brass and chrome-brass faucets, and in some cases, pipes (service lines) made of lead that connect houses and buildings to water mains. 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 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.

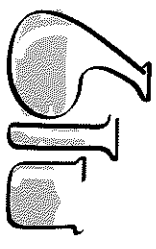
To address corrosion of lead and copper into drinking water, EPA issued the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act. The LCR requires corrosion control treatment to prevent lead and copper from contaminating drinking water. Corrosion control treatment means systems must make drinking water less corrosive to the materials it comes into contact with on its way to customers' faucets.

Steps You Can Take to Reduce Exposure to Lead in Water

- 1) Run your water to flush out lead.** Run water for 15-30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature to flush lead from interior plumbing before using it for drinking or cooking, if it hasn't been used for several hours. For those with lead service lines, or until you determine if you are served by one, let the water run from the tap based on the length of the lead service line and the plumbing configuration in your home.
- 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.
- 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. To protect water quality, be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.



- 5) Test your water for lead.** Call **SUEZ at 1-800-422-5987** or visit www.SUEZWQ.com to find out how you can have your water tested.



- 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 .25 percent lead to be labeled as "lead-free."
- 8) Regularly remove and clean aerators/screens on plumbing fixtures.** Over time, particles and sediment can collect in the aerator screen usually found at the tip of indoor faucets.
- 9) Properly maintain water softeners.** Not properly maintaining your water softener could have a negative impact on the corrosivity of the water in your home.

What happened? What is being done?

SUEZ found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings. Specifically, 108 samples were collected at residences served by SUEZ Hackensack between July 16, 2018 and December 12, 2018, and 15 of the results exceeded the Lead Action Level of 15 ppb.

In order to address potential lead issues, SUEZ enhanced its corrosion control treatment in 2017. SUEZ has monitored and continues to evaluate the treatment and will make adjustments as necessary.

SUEZ has been replacing lead service lines for years and now, as required, will upgrade its program to replace at least 7 percent per year. The portion of the service line from the main in the street to the property line is owned by SUEZ, including the gooseneck, the pipe connecting the water main to the service line. The pipe from the curb to the home is owned by the property owner.

Customers who have a utility-owned lead service line or gooseneck can have their water tested, upon request, by calling **1-800-422-5987**. The test is representative of the water stagnant in a utility-owned lead service line or lead gooseneck. If that test exceeds the lead action level of 15 ppb, we will provide a free water pitcher that filters out lead. Our website, www.SUEZWQ.com, has more information as well as a search tool customers can use to determine if they are served by a utility-owned lead service line or gooseneck.

For More Information

For more information, call the SUEZ Customer Service Center at **1-800-422-5987** or visit www.SUEZWQ.com.

For more information about reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at www.epa.gov/lead, <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead> or contact your health care provider.

SUEZ Water New Jersey Hackensack PWSID# NJ0238001

This notice does not apply to Franklin Lakes, Allendale or Saddle River. It also does not apply to residents in municipalities that contract with SUEZ to operate their water systems. This includes Jersey City, Bayonne, Hoboken, Rahway, Kearny and Orange.



www.suezwq.com