

PUBLIC ADVISORY FOR DRINKING WATER CUSTOMERS IN THE CITY OF ST. CLAIR SHORES

In 2018, the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act's *Lead and Copper Rule* was changed to better protect your health. New water sampling rules were added to better detect possible lead in your drinking water. These changes requires communities with lead service lines to increase the number of sampling locations and draw multiple samples from each location. This new sampling method is expected to result in higher lead results, not because the water source or quality for residents has changed, but because the Act has more stringent sampling procedures and analysis.

The City of St. Clair Shores has been conducting testing of tap water in homes with lead service lines for lead and copper in accordance with this Act since 1992.

In September, 2019, the City collected samples from 32 sites with known lead service leads out of approximately 25,303 total water customers in the City. Of the 25,303 water customers, there are approximately 2.5% (roughly 656 customers) with lead service leads. Four (4) of the 32 targeted sites tested exceeded the Action Level based on the 15 ppb (parts per billion). The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy or EGLE (formally the MDEQ) evaluates compliance with the Action Level based on the 90th percentile of all lead and copper results collected in each round of sampling. As a result of testing under this new method, the lead 90th percentile for the City of St. Clair Shores water supply is 21 ppb, which exceeds the Action Level of 15 ppb.

This does not mean that every customer has elevated lead levels, an Action Level exceedance means that more than 10% of the samples tested under the new testing method have elevated lead levels. The Action Level exceedance in our sampling was found in water that had been sitting in the lead material or galvanized material service line pipe overnight. The City had four (4) of the targeted 32 sites with known lead service leads report elevated lead levels. The City contacted the homeowners with elevated lead levels and provided them with their sampling results.

The "Action Level" is not a health-based standard, but it is a level that triggers additional actions including, but not limited to, increased investigative sampling of water quality and educational outreach to customers. This is **not** a violation of the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act.

Homes with lead service lines have an increased risk of having high lead levels in drinking water. If you are a St. Clair Shores water customer and have or think you may have a lead service line to your home and would like to verify your water service line, you can take the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/H7NQBSC>.

For a list of approved laboratories for lead/copper testing in your drinking water, go to https://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/Lead_Copper_Lab_Certs_526434_7.pdf

For more information about lead in water, health-related concerns and your water service leads, attend the following Open House:

**St. Clair Shores Lead Safe Open House & Water Filter Distribution
Thursday, November 7, 2019
St. Clair Shores Senior Activity Center
20000 Stephens (between I-94 and Little Mack)
4:00-8:00 PM**

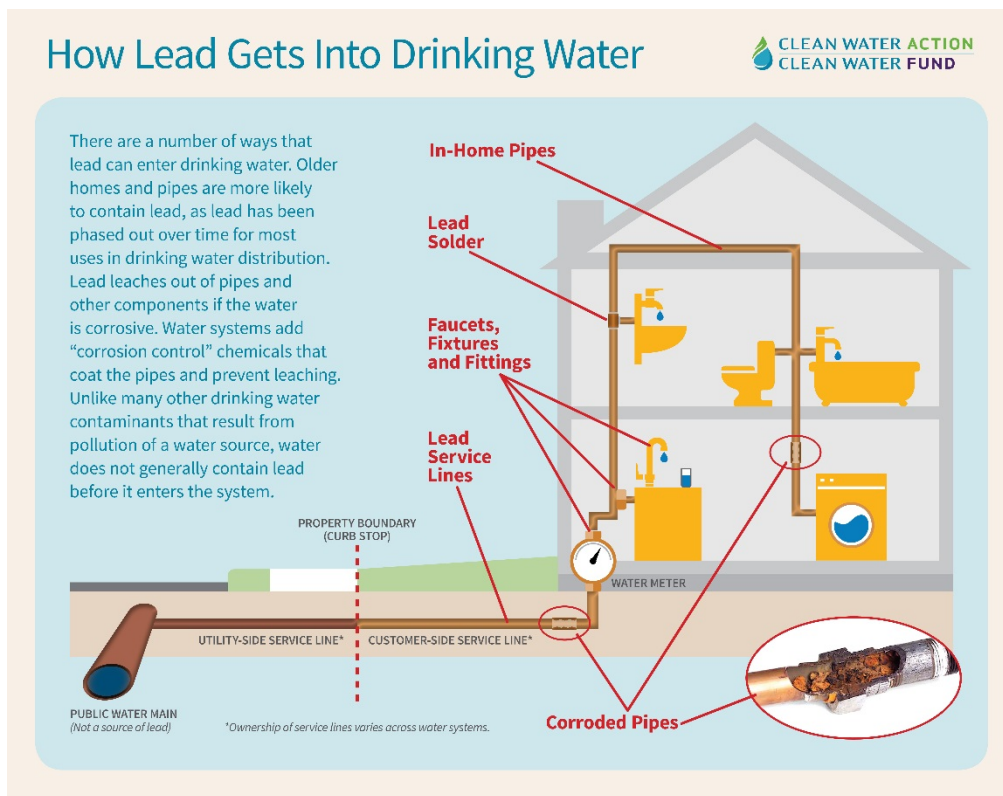
Residents can meet one-on-one with representatives from the Macomb Health Department, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and the City of St. Clair Shores to discuss lead-related health concerns and water service leads on individual properties.

Complimentary faucet filters or pitcher filters will be available to citizens who meet the following State-mandated qualifications:

- 1) A child under 18 lives at the address**
- 2) A child under 18 frequently spends time at this address (“frequently” means that a resident of the household provides care for at least several days per week for a few hours per day over three or more months per year)**
- 3) A pregnant woman lives at the address.**
- 4) A person receiving WIC benefits or Medicaid insurance lives at this address**
- 5) A person can’t afford a filter and replacement cartridges (filters cost about \$35 and replacement filters cost about \$15)**

Although the results of the September, 2019 sampling are site-specific and can vary between homes, the City of St. Clair Shores would like to share some recommended actions that all of our resident can take to reduce exposure to lead, since exposure to lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water and other sources.

Lead can enter drinking water when in contact with older pipes, solder, interior plumbing, and older fittings and fixtures that contain lead, particularly when water has remained still, or stagnated, for extended periods. See diagram below:



You can follow these tips to help reduce exposure to lead:

- RUN YOUR WATER TO FLUSH OUT LEAD-CONTAINING WATER**
The more time water has been sitting in your home’s pipes, the more lead it may contain. Therefore, if your water has not been used for several hours, run the water **before** using it for drinking or cooking. This flushes stagnant water from the pipes. Additional flushing may be

required for homes that have been vacant or have a longer service line. Use the following procedure as a guide:

- If you **do not** have a lead service line, run the water for 30 seconds to two minutes, or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature.
 - If you **do** have a lead service line, run the water for at least five minutes to flush water from your home of the building's plumbing and the lead service line.
- **CONSIDER USING A FILTER TO REDUCE LEAD IN DRINKING WATER**
 - **The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services recommends that any household with a child or pregnant woman use cold water and a certified lead filter to remove lead from their drinking water, especially when preparing baby formula.**
 - Look for filters that are tested and certified to NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for lead reduction.
 - Be sure to maintain and replace the filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to protect water quality.
 - If your household has a child or pregnant woman or if you are not able to afford the cost of a lead filter, go to the **St. Clair Shores Lead Safe Open House & Water Filter Distribution event on Thursday, November 7 at the Senior Activity Center** and receive a complimentary faucet filter or pitcher filter (see qualifications on page 1).
 - **Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, or preparing baby formula.**
 - Do not boil your water. It will not reduce the amount of lead in water.
 - Clean your faucet aerator to remove trapped debris.
 - **Check whether your home has a lead service line.** If you are unsure whether your home is serviced by a lead service line, you can take the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/H7NQBSC>.
 - **HAVE YOUR WATER TESTED FOR LEAD**

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) publishes a list of state laboratories that are certified for lead testing at https://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/Lead_Copper_Lab_Certs_526434_7.pdf.

In the coming weeks, the City of St. Clair Shores will be providing additional informational resources as part of a comprehensive public education campaign. Additional information regarding the new regulations and lead safety can be found on the City of St. Clair Shores' website at (insert SCS website address) or at the EGLE website at www.michigan.gov/MILeadSafe or at health.macombgov.org.

The City of St. Clair Shores takes issues of water quality very seriously. As we continue to provide you with the best drinking water possible, we ask for your patience and cooperation during the process to alleviate these issues. It is also important to note that our water supplier, the Great Lake Water Authority (GLWA) tests our water in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. If you are interested in learning more about our drinking water, St. Clair Shores Annual Drinking Water report is available online on the City's website at <https://www.scsmi.net/DocumentCenter/View/4741/2019-WATER-QUALITY-REPORT>

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

