



Learning About Your Water Quality

Naperville is a municipal leader in providing high-quality drinking water that is clean and safe for you and your family to use. In fact, the water supplied by the City complies with all Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) standards, including those for lead. We're implementing some enhanced notifications as required by the IEPA to increase your water-quality awareness and reduce the potential for lead in drinking water.

Knowledge is power. While there is no lead situation affecting the quality of Naperville's water supply, the City wants you to be as informed as possible when it comes to your drinking water.

It's possible that construction activities to repair or maintain water mains, lead service lines or water meters, like the project beginning on the water system in your neighborhood, may temporarily increase lead levels in the water supply. Having a lead service line does not necessarily mean you will have lead in your water, but it does indicate that you may be at greater risk if your lead service line is disrupted, such as during this project.

How can I determine if I have a lead service line?

Lead pipes were used in homes built in the early 20th century but banned in Naperville in 1960. Lead piping was banned nationally by the EPA in 1986 with lead content in solders and fixtures restricted to 8% lead content. (In 2014, lead was banned from these items as well.)

If you want to know what type of service line you have, a licensed plumber can test your line to determine if it's made of lead or another material. You can find a selection of licensed plumbers in your area by visiting the Illinois Department of Public Health website and conducting a 'Plumber License Search'.

Another way to determine if the pipe coming into your home is made of lead is to carefully scratch it with a coin. If it is lead, the scratched area will turn bright silver.

Learn more about your water quality and the new IEPA notifications at www.naperville.il.us/waterquality/.

If you have any questions about the above, please call the Department of Public Utilities - Water at (630) 420-6128.

How can I reduce my risk from lead exposure during this construction project?

While it is not known whether or not this particular project will affect any lead if present in your plumbing, here are some preventative steps you can take to minimize your risk from lead:

- Consider using cold water for drinking, cooking and preparing baby formula. Lead dissolves more easily in warm or hot water. Boiling water will not remove lead.
- Run your water for a few minutes to flush out lead after periods of non-use, such as first thing in the morning, after work and after a vacation.
- Look for alternative sources of treated water such as bottled water or purchase a water filter that is certified to remove "total lead."
- Periodically remove and clean your faucet aerators, purchase lead-free faucet and plumbing components or replace the entire lead service line.

How can I test my water for lead?

While the City of Naperville does not perform testing for lead, you can send a sample of your water to a certified laboratory to be tested for a fee. The certified laboratories closest to Naperville are:

- First Environmental Laboratories, Inc., Naperville, (630) 778-1200
- Suburban Laboratories, Inc., Geneva, (708) 544-3260

