

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

**ESTE INFORME CONTIENE INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE ACERCA DE SU AGUA POTABLE. HAGA QUE  
ALGUIEN LO TRADUZCA PARA USTED, O HABLE CON ALGUIEN QUE LO ENTIENDA.**

The Municipal Water Authority of Aliquippa (MWAA) found elevated levels of lead in drinking water tap samples in some homes. Elevated levels of Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children.

## Steps You Can Take to Reduce Your Exposure to Lead in Your Water<sup>(1)</sup>

1. **Run your water to flush out lead.** Run water for 60 seconds to flush lead from interior plumbing or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking, if it hasn't been used for several hours.
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. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
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](http://www.nsf.org) for information on performance standards for water filters. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to protect water quality.
5. **Test your water for lead.** Call us at 724-375-5525 to find out how to get your water tested for lead.
6. **Get your child's blood tested.** Contact your local health department or health care 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.** New brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free" may contribute lead to drinking water. Until 2014, the law allowed end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 8% lead to be labeled as "lead-free."

## What Happened? What is being done?

Earlier this year, MWAA identified lead service lines at residential sites across the system by excavation to identify locations for lead and copper rule compliance sampling. Sixty-eight (68) residential homes were confirmed to have lead service lines, and twenty-nine (29) of those residential customers agreed to participate in this sampling. In June 2020, MWAA collected these 29 lead and copper samples. The lead and copper samples were sent to an independent accredited laboratory, and the results were submitted to PaDEP. Results of this sampling found an exceedance in the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile action level for lead whereby four (4) of the 29 samples had concentrations that exceeded the EPA lead action level of 0.015 milligrams per liter. The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile lead level from this sampling is 0.0495 milligrams per liter. The MWAA is actively conducting further investigation to identify additional residential homes to conduct lead and copper sampling; public participation in this voluntary sampling is encouraged for residential homes with confirmed lead service lines and/or interior lead plumbing.

The MWAA has proceeded with steps to reduce the lead level, including analysis of water quality parameters at locations across the distribution system which will be utilized as part of a Corrosion Control Treatment (CCT) feasibility study. This CCT feasibility study will evaluate options to reduce corrosivity of the drinking water with the goal of lowering lead levels to achieve compliance with EPA requirements.

It is also important to note that MWAA has prepared and submitted a permit application to PaDEP for construction of a new water filtration plant. The water filtration plant is designed to reduce Iron and Manganese concentrations in drinking water to address "dirty water" complaints. Included in the water filtration plant permit application are provisions for corrosion control if necessary. Construction of the new water filtration plant is anticipated to begin in 2021.

The next round of lead and copper compliance samples will be completed by December 31, 2020. If the results from the independent laboratory show that the lead concentration exceeds the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile action level (0.015 mg/L), MWAA will submit an interim permit to PaDEP for the introduction of corrosion control treatment techniques for the water system at the existing water treatment plant.

## For More Information:

Call MWAA at 724-375-5525 or visit our website at [www.aliquippawater.com](http://www.aliquippawater.com). 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](http://www.epa.gov/lead), or contact your health care provider.

Please share this information with all other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly. This notice is being provided to you by the MWAA and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

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Footnote:

<sup>(1)</sup> "Important Information About Lead in your Drinking Water," Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Safe Drinking water, 3930-FM-BSDW0137A.