

IMPORTANT
INFORMATION
ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR
DRINKING WATER

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

For More Information

Brown County Health Department

920-448-6400

www.co.brown.wi.us/health



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Brown County Health Department

Green Bay Water Utility

631 S. Adams St., PO Box 1210

Green Bay, WI 54305-1210

920-448-3480

www.gbwater.org



If you live outside of the City of Green Bay, please contact your water utility department with any questions.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) website

www.epa.gov/lead



Lead in Drinking Water



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STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO REDUCE YOUR EXPOSURE TO LEAD IN YOUR WATER



1. **Run your water to flush out lead.** If water hasn't been used for several hours, run water for 1-2 minutes to flush lead from plumbing. Otherwise run water until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking.



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. Be sure to check to make sure filter is approved to reduce lead. Also remember to maintain and replace the filter device to protect the water quality.



5. **Test your water for lead.** For a list of labs certified to test lead in drink water levels search: www.gbwater.org



6. **Get your child's blood tested.** Contact the Brown County Health Department, or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead, if you are concerned about exposure to lead.



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. The law currently allows end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 8% lead to be labeled as "lead-free".