



LEAD CAN BE A SIGNFANT RISK TO YOUR HEALTH, ESPECIALLY FOR PREGNANT WOMEN AND CHILDREN UNDER AGE SIX.

Run the cold water tap for two minutes before using it for drinking and cooking

Lead and other metals can dissolve in water when it sits in pipes for a few hours.

Do not use the hot water tap for drinking and cooking

Always use cold tap water, including water used for making ice, beverages and infant formula. Hot tap water can cause a greater amount of lead to release from plumbing and may contain metals and bacteria that build up in the water heater.



Remove and clean faucet aerators



Lead particles and sediment can collect in the aerator screen located at the tip of your faucet. Aerators should be replaced once a year and are available at local hardware stores.

Install lead-free plumbing fixtures

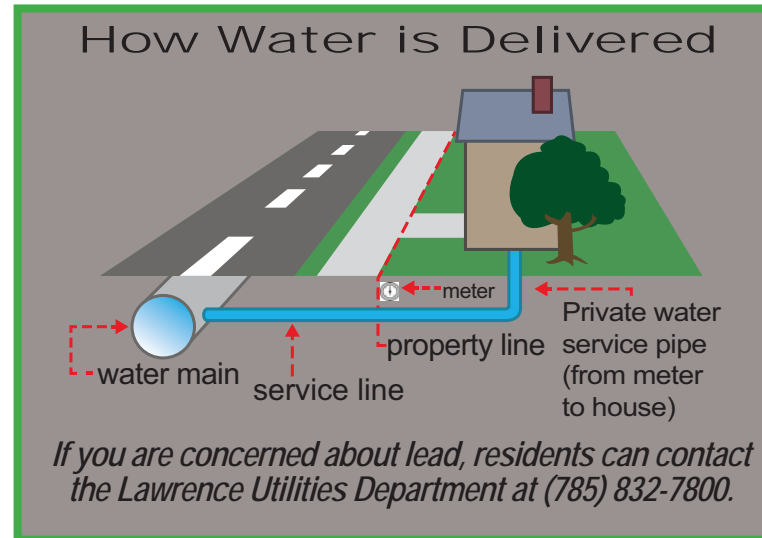
Install fixtures and fittings that contain 0.25 percent lead or less.

Replace private lead service pipes and household galvanized plumbing

Replace private lead service pipe with new pipe. When lead is released from lead service pipe and passes through galvanized pipes, lead can collect on the inside, corroded walls of this plumbing and release lead in household water. Contact a licensed plumber about replacing household plumbing.

Drain your water heater annually

Over time, metals, sediment and bacteria can build up in your water heater.



Flush cold water taps after installing new household pipes or fixtures

New plumbing can release metals after installation. Flush cold water taps for five minutes at a high flow rate once a day for three days, especially before using water for drinking and cooking.

Use filtered tap water

If you are pregnant or have children under age six, use cold, filtered tap water for drinking and cooking until all lead sources are removed. This includes water used for making infant formula, beverages and ice. Select a filter certified to meet NSF Standard 53 for lead. The filter package should specifically list the device as certified for removing the contaminant "lead." Routinely replace filter cartridges according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Lead in drinking water can affect each home in the City of Lawrence differently. Drinking water is essentially lead-free in the distribution system and prior to entering your individual water service pipes. However, there are sources where lead can enter your water.

Private Lead Service Pipe - The pipe that connects the water meter to your household plumbing. The material of water service pipes can vary, and some households still have lead service pipes. Lead service pipes were installed until the mid-1950s.

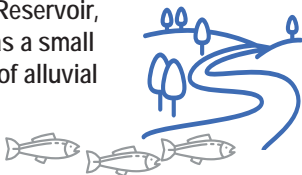
Lead Solder - Connects pipes in household plumbing. Lead solder was used in plumbing prior to 1987.

Brass Faucets, Valves and Fittings - Almost all faucets, valves and fittings have brass components. Until 2014, brass faucets and fittings sold in the United States that are labeled "lead-free" can contain up to 8 percent lead.

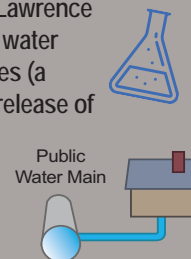
Galvanized Iron Pipes - Old, corroded pipes that can release lead in water if you have, or once had, a lead service pipe. Galvanized pipes were installed in many homes prior to the 1960's.

Our Drinking Water

Where does our drinking water come from? Lawrence's drinking water comes from the Kansas River and the Clinton Reservoir, as well as a small amount of alluvial wells.



Who distributes drinking water? The Lawrence Utilities Department is responsible for water treatment and adds phosphate additives (a food-grade chemical) to minimize the release of lead from service pipes & household plumbing. The City of Lawrence distributes the water to homes and businesses through nearly 500 miles of pipes in the city.



Where can lead be found? Lead can enter your water if you have a lead service pipe or household plumbing with lead. Phosphate additives can reduce lead release from these sources.

