



## Basic Facts About Lead and Your Drinking Water

*This information was compiled from a publication of the EPA. If you have other questions concerning water safety or quality, please contact the EPA at (800) 426-4791 or via the web at EPA.gov.*

*To get more information about the public health concern, please call Citizens Energy Group, Environmental Stewardship, Lab Services at (317) 677-2845.*



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Exposure to lead can cause serious health problems, especially for young children and pregnant women. Please be assured that Citizens Energy Group regularly tests drinking water for lead and copper and takes steps in its treatment process to ensure corrosive elements do not result in elevated levels of lead and copper in customer tap water. Citizens does not have any active water mains containing lead. Rarely, elevated lead levels are found in isolated samples of tap water taken from customer homes with lead service lines or plumbing. Since each home has different plumbing pipes and materials, test results are likely to be different for each home tested for lead. It is important to note that most homes with lead service lines or plumbing do not have elevated levels of lead in the tap water.



**If you do have a lead service line or lead components in your home's plumbing, the following are steps you can take to minimize your exposure to lead.**

- 1. Flush your tap before drinking or cooking with the water if the water in the faucet has gone unused for more than six hours**  
- The longer the water lies dormant in your home's plumbing, the more lead it might contain. Flush your tap with cold water for 30 seconds to



two minutes before using. To conserve water, catch the running water and use it to water your plants.

- 2. Try not to cook with or drink water from the hot water faucet**  
- Hot water has the potential to contain more lead than cold water. When you need hot water, heat cold water on the stove or in the microwave.



- 3. Remove loose lead solder and debris from plumbing** - In homes in which the plumbing was recently replaced, remove the strainers from each faucet and run the water for 3 to 5 minutes. When replacing or working on pipes, be sure to use materials that are lead-free. Use of lead-based solders has been illegal since 1986.
- 4. Check water softener systems** - Certain home treatment devices, such as water softeners for example, might increase lead levels in your water. Always consult the device manufacturer for information on potential impacts to your drinking water or household plumbing.
- 5. Have an electrician check your wiring** - If grounding wires from the electrical system in your home are connected to your plumbing, it can accelerate corrosion. A licensed electrician can determine whether your system is grounded properly. Do not attempt to change the wiring yourself because improper grounding can cause electrical shock and fire hazards.

**If you are still concerned about lead in your tap water and want to find out about having your water tested, please call Citizens at (317) 924-3311.**

