

Lead-free Minneapolis tap water

Minneapolis tap water comes from the Mississippi River, lead-free. Before the treated water is sent to the distribution system, we test to make sure it's still lead-free.

Lead and copper rule

On June 7, 1991, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued the Lead and Copper Rule. The rule requires water utilities to monitor drinking water at customer taps and take actions to control corrosion when the following occur:

- 90th percentile for lead exceeds an action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb). This means 90% of the samples must test below 15-ppb. One ppb is equivalent to about three seconds in 100 years.
- 90th percentile for copper exceeds an action level of 1,300-ppb.
- If the action level for lead is exceeded, the water utility must inform the public about the steps they should take to protect their health. The utility may also have to replace lead service lines under their control. The City of Minneapolis has never had a violation of the Lead and Copper Rule.

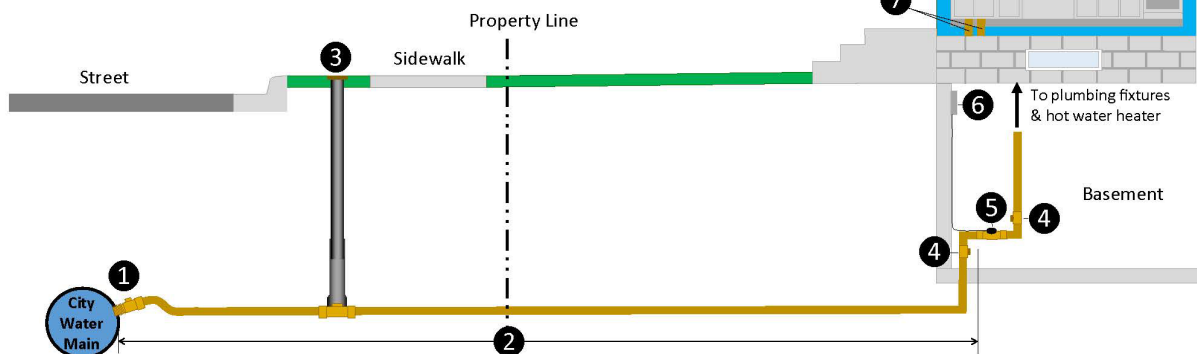
The Revised Lead and Copper Rule, effective December 16, 2021, kept these action levels and defined a lead trigger level of 10 ppb that triggers additional planning, monitoring, and treatment requirements. Minneapolis' monitoring results are below the trigger level.

Water service lines

- A water service line is the pipe that connects the city water main to the water meter and water pipes inside a home or business.
- Lead can leach into tap water from the lead and galvanized steel pipes used in plumbing before 1930. In the City of Minneapolis, water service lines to residential properties installed prior to 1930 contained lead.
- In Minneapolis, water service lines are owned by and are the responsibility of the property owner.
- If a leak is discovered on a lead or galvanized steel water service line, the entire water service line from main to meter must be replaced; it may not be repaired.
- Call 612-673-5600 to find out if a Minneapolis water service line contains lead.

Typical City of Minneapolis Residential Water Service

- 1 Water service tap (Customer owned)
- 2 Water service line (Customer owned) - May contain lead
- 3 Stop box (Customer owned)
- 4 Meter valves (Customer owned)
- 5 Water meter (City owned)
- 6 Water meter reading device (City owned)
- 7 Household plumbing & fixtures (Customer owned) - May contain lead



Tap water monitoring

We are required to check lead concentrations from residential locations every three years. This is known as the “tier 1” sampling pool. Tier 1 residences must be single family structures with:

- Lead water service lines
- Lead interior water pipes

2021 RESIDENTIAL LEAD TESTING RESULTS

- Sixty-three (63) homes with lead service lines were tested and all results were less than the EPA’s action levels for lead and copper.
- The 90th percentile lead result was 2-ppb, well below the 15-ppb action level. The highest level of lead detected was 4.9-ppb.
- The 90th percentile copper result was 49-ppb, well below the 1300-ppb action level. The highest level of copper detected was 131-ppb.
- All samples were analyzed by an independent certified laboratory contracted by the Minnesota Department of Health.

Preventing pipe corrosion

- Ortho polyphosphate, a chemical that prevents pipe corrosion, is added to the water during the treatment process.
- The Minnesota Department of Health requires us to maintain a 0.4 parts per million concentration level of ortho phosphate throughout the water distribution system.
- Samples from 10 sites throughout the system are submitted to the Minnesota Department of Health for ortho phosphate analysis quarterly. The average result for 2021 was 0.54 parts per million; the range was 0.47-0.66 parts per million.

- The acidity of the water is reduced during the treatment process. Maintaining a pH of 8.8-9.0 helps ensure the water is not corrosive.

Ways you can reduce your risk of lead exposure

If your home's plumbing materials contain lead, the lead can leach into your water. You can reduce your risks by following these tips:

- If your water has been sitting in the pipes for over six hours, run the cold water for 30-60 seconds to bring in fresh water.
- Use cold water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula. Hot tap water can have higher levels of lead. Boiling water will not reduce lead.
- Clean faucet aerators. Aerators are small screens at the tips of faucets that can collect lead particles.
- Filter your water. If you use a water filter, make sure it is certified for lead removal and is maintained properly. Find out more on filter certification at www.nsf.org.

Identifying and purchasing lead-free faucets

Most faucets purchased before 1997 were made of brass or chrome-plated brass containing up to 8 percent lead. Water sitting for several hours in these faucets can leach lead from the brass and cause high lead levels in the first draw of drinking water. Lead can also leach into the water from other plumbing such as pre-1988 lead solder joints in copper pipes.

Residents who let the water run at the tap in the morning for one minute and use cold water for cooking should have little concern with respect to lead in the drinking water. If residents are still concerned, they can request a free lead testing kit at minneapolisismn.gov/lead-testing. Another option would be to replace older faucets with new ultra-low lead faucets.

LEAD-FREE FAUCETS

Beginning in 2014, faucet manufacturers are required to comply with a regulation to decrease or eliminate lead in kitchen, bathroom and bar faucets, drinking fountains, and icemakers. See [How to identify lead free certification marks](#) for more information.

Not all plumbing fixtures are covered by federal and state regulations

Hose bibs, bathtub fixtures, shower heads, and industrial faucets are not covered by Federal and State lead regulations and may contain lead. Avoid drinking from or cooking with water from these fixtures.

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency operates a National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD (5323) or can be reached at its website www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

More information on lead in drinking water

- <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/lead.html>
- https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/letitrun_english.html
- www.epa.gov/safewater/lead

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