

## **What does The Village of Goodfield Water Department do to protect my household from lead?**

The Village of Goodfield is completing its water service line inventory as required by the Illinois EPA. Goodfield has required copper or plastic service lines since the Goodfield water system began in 1962. At this time we have not found any lead service lines on the Village or homeownerside. Plumbing inside your home (past the initial entry into home) is not included in the service line inventory.

Since lead solder was commonly used on copper plumbing inside homes prior to 1986 (and other water fixtures were allowed to contain some lead) it is possible that plumbing in older homes could potentially expose residents to lead.

To prevent lead from dissolving into water, the Village of Goodfield adjusts the water's chemistry at the treatment plant. This process is known as "corrosion control" and involves making the water less corrosive to materials like lead and copper. Goodfield also samples water per EPA standards in homes. This testing is to make sure the corrosion control treatment is effective. No dangerous levels have been detected, and the Village will continue its monitoring program. Although corrosion control can reduce risks, the best way to assure your home is safe from lead exposure is to remove the potential sources of lead.

### **How does lead get into drinking water?**

Lead can enter drinking water through corrosion of plumbing materials especially where the water has high acidity or low mineral content that corrodes pipes and fixtures. Corrosion is a dissolving or wearing away of metal caused by a chemical reaction between water and your plumbing. Homes built before 1986 are more likely to have lead pipes, lead fixtures, and/or lead solder. However, new homes are also at risk; even legally "lead-free" plumbing installed before 2014 may contain up to 8% lead. Other plumbing materials, such as brass or chrome-plated brass, may have fixtures that have lead solder. Beginning January 2014, changes to the Safe Drinking Water Act further reduced the maximum allowable lead content of wetted surfaces of pipes, pipe fitting, plumbing fitting, and fixtures to 0.25%. The requirement is even lower for solder and flux.

### **What are the health effects of lead?**

The USEPA has determined that lead can cause significant health problems if it accumulates in a person's body over time. While lead in tap water is rarely the single cause of lead poisoning, it can increase a person's lifetime total lead exposure. High levels of lead in your household drinking water can have significant health impacts especially for children and pregnant women. Please visit [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead) for more information about the impact of lead on your health.

**What you can do to minimize lead in your water:**

1. Run the cold water to flush out lead. Let the water run from the tap before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in the faucet has gone unused for more than six hours. The longer the water resides in plumbing the more lead it may contain. Flushing the tap means running the cold-water faucet. Let the water run from the cold-water tap based on the length of the lead service line and the plumbing configuration in your home. In other words, the larger the home or building and the greater the distance to the water main (in the street), the more water it will take to flush properly. While toilet flushing or showering flushes water through a portion of the plumbing system, you still need to flush the water in each faucet before using it for drinking or cooking. Flushing tap water is a simple and inexpensive measure you can take to protect your health.
2. Use cold, flushed water for cooking and preparing baby formula. Because lead from lead- containing plumbing materials and pipes can dissolve into hot water more easily than cold water. Do not drink, cook, or prepare beverages including baby formula using hot water from the tap. With a Lead Service Line, it is recommended that bottled or filtered water be used for drinking and preparing baby formula. If you need hot water, draw water from the cold tap and then heat it.
3. Do not boil water to remove lead. Boiling water will not reduce lead; however, it is still safe to wash dishes and do laundry. Lead will not soak into dishware or most clothes.
4. Use alternative sources or treatment of water. You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Read the filter package to be sure the filter is certified to meet NSF/ANSI Standard 53 and 42.
5. Remove and clean aerators/screens on plumbing fixtures. Over time, particles and sediment can collect in the aerator screen. Regularly remove and clean aerator screens located at the tip of faucets and remove any particles.

Please call the Goodfield Water Department at (309) 965-2710 if you have any questions about your water or water service line.