

Be Lead Safe: DRINKING WATER

Do I need a water filter?

Most children come into contact with lead because of chipping, peeling or cracking paint inside or outside of old homes. But lead could also get into your body if you drink or cook with water that contains lead.

In Milwaukee, our water is safely treated at Milwaukee Water Works to reduce the risk of lead getting into our drinking water, but some older homes still have water pipes containing lead that bring water into their homes, or pipes made of lead inside their homes. To keep lead out of your drinking water, you can use a water filter that is certified to remove lead from the water coming out of your faucet.

The only way to know for sure if your child has been exposed to lead, is to have a blood lead test. Talk to your doctor about getting your child tested today! Milwaukee children should be tested three times before the age of 3.



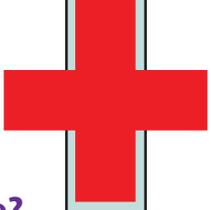
Do you have a lead service line?

When lead is found in drinking water, it is usually because the water in homes flows through pipes or plumbing made with lead. Lead service lines, which are the pipes that bring water to your home from the water main under the street, could be made of lead. Inside your home, lead pipes or old brass fixtures may contain lead. When water sits in these pipes, lead can get into the drinking water.



Do you have small children or pregnant or breastfeeding women in your home?

Small children, especially infants and children under the age of 6 years old, absorb lead more easily than adults. Lead can also be passed from a pregnant mother to her unborn child, or through breastmilk.



Yes

If you answered "yes" to both questions above, consider using a drinking water filter that is certified to remove lead.

Drinking water filters that are certified to remove lead will be labeled with "NSF Standard 53." Find examples of filters at Milwaukee.gov/health.

