

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

Columbus City Utilities (CCU) treats, tests, and distributes high-quality drinking water to you and the community. Public water systems across the United States, including CCU, are diligently working to find and remove all lead service lines to ensure this public health threat is eliminated for good. CCU takes the issue of lead in drinking water very seriously, and we offer this fact sheet to help you identify potential sources of lead in your home, learn how lead can affect your health, and most importantly, know how to maintain high-quality water and reduce exposure to lead.

Health Effects of Lead

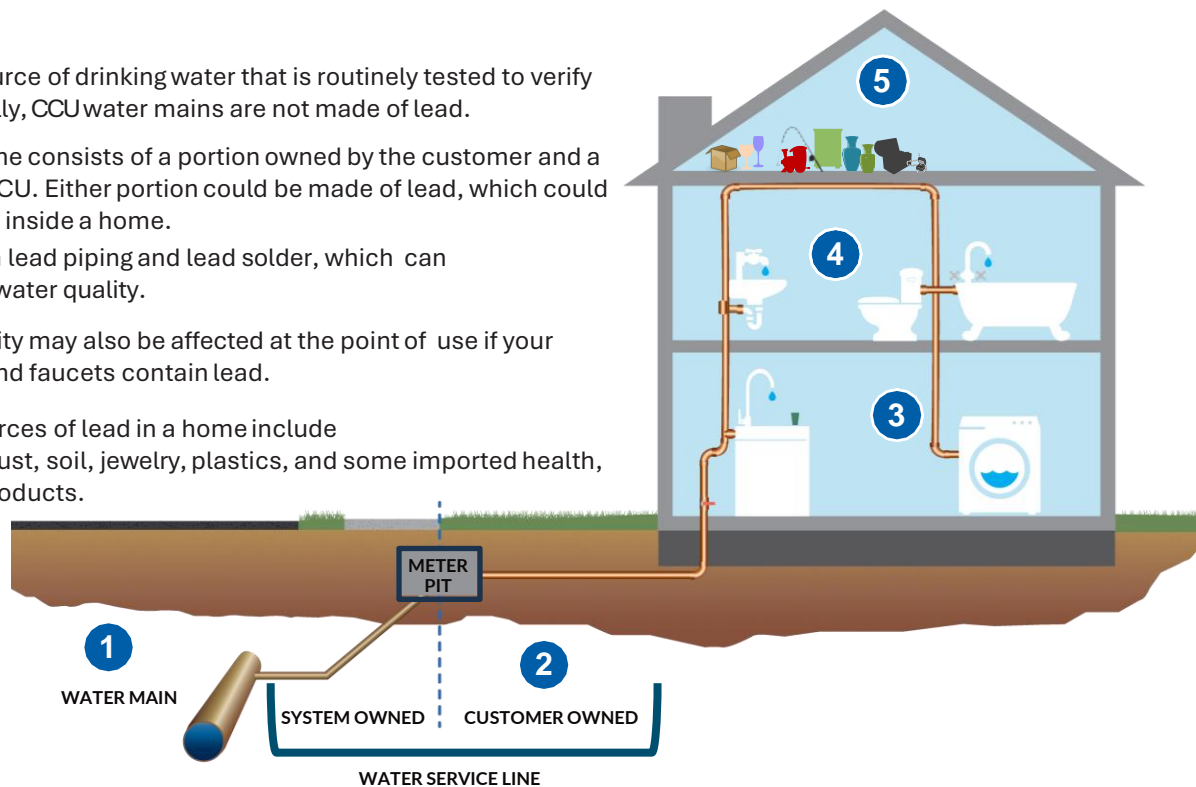


Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems.

Sources of Lead

Lead is a naturally occurring material that was used for many years in residential and industrial plumbing products. Historically, lead was considered a good material for plumbing because it could easily form into different shapes and resist leaks. For this reason, older homes may have lead-containing service lines, plumbing, and kitchen or bath fixtures.

- 1 CCU provides a source of drinking water that is routinely tested to verify it is safe. Additionally, CCU water mains are not made of lead.
- 2 The water service line consists of a portion owned by the customer and a portion owned by CCU. Either portion could be made of lead, which could affect water quality inside a home.
- 3 Homes may contain lead piping and lead solder, which can also affect drinking water quality.
- 4 Drinking water quality may also be affected at the point of use if your plumbing fixtures and faucets contain lead.
- 5 Other potential sources of lead in a home include lead-based paint, dust, soil, jewelry, plastics, and some imported health, beauty, and food products.



Steps you can take to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water

- ▶ **Flush your tap for at least 5 minutes** before drinking or cooking if the water in the faucet has gone unused for more than 6 hours (for example, first thing in the morning).
- ▶ **Use cold water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula.** Hot water is more likely to release lead from pipes than cold water.
- ▶ **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water does not remove lead.
- ▶ **Test your water** if you are concerned about lead in your drinking water. Tests should be performed by a state-certified laboratory.
- ▶ **Filter your water. Use a water filter that is NSF/ANSI 53 certified for lead removal.** Many filters and filter systems can improve water quality and taste in other ways too. Visit [nsf.org](https://www.nsf.org) for more information.
- ▶ **Clean faucet aerators and flush cold water taps regularly.** Aerators can collect particles from lead plumbing and should be removed and cleaned regularly. It is especially important after household plumbing work and repairs. After removing the aerator, flush the cold water lines for 5 minutes.
- ▶ **Get your child tested.** Contact your healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child's blood tested for lead if you are concerned about exposure.



For More Information



Columbus City Utilities works hard to provide a safe source of drinking water to our customers. Because property owners within the CCU's service area own a portion of the water service lines, there is a shared responsibility to manage potential lead exposure. We are ready to work with you to answer your questions about water quality.

CCU's website

Information and helpful tips on lead in drinking water:
<https://www.columbusutilities.org/residential/lead-free-water/>

Indiana Department of Health

Drinking Water Lead and Copper Program:
<https://www.in.gov/health/lead/>

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Resources to understand and reduce lead exposure: [epa.gov/lead](https://www.epa.gov/lead)

National Lead Hotline: 1-800-424-LEAD (5323)