

City of Hamtramck Water Line Testing Rapid Response Team

Likely Questions and Answers

Q: What does this mean for me?

A: Lead enters drinking water when it comes in contact with individual homes that have lead service lines or internal plumbing made with lead. The most important thing you can do is run your water before you take a drink.

The more time water has been sitting in your home's pipes, the more lead it may contain. Therefore, if your water has not been used for several hours, run the water before using it for drinking or cooking. This flushes lead-containing water from the pipes. Additional flushing may be required for homes that have been vacant or have a longer service line.

- If you **do not** have a lead service line, run the water for 30 seconds to two minutes, or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature.
- If you **do** have a lead service line, run the water for three to five minutes to flush water from your home of building's plumbing and the lead service line.
- Use cold tap water for drinking and cooking.
- Use cold tap water for preparing baby formula. If you have a lead service line, use bottled water or a lead reducing filter to prepare baby formula.
- **Do not boil** your water. Boiling will not reduce the amount of lead in water.
- Consider using a filter to reduce lead. Look for NSF 42 and 53 certified filters.
- Get your child tested. Contact Wayne Co Health Department or your family doctor.
- Get your drinking water tested. Contact Rodney Johnson for more information.
- Check if you have a lead service line or plumbing or fixtures that contain lead. Contact Rodney Johnson for more information.

Q: I have children, should they be tested for lead exposure?

A: If you have a lead service line, or if testing results are over 15 ppb, you should have infants or children under the age of six tested. Would you like to schedule a test right now? If so, contact Nour Aljanabi (734) 727-2215, at LeadSafe Wayne County Health Department, or your family doctor or pediatrician.

Q: I'm not sure if I have a lead service line. What should I do?

A: The City of Hamtramck, Dept. of Public Services will be very willing to come out and check the service line for you.

Or you can...

1) You can hire a licensed plumber to inspect the plumbing to do a plumbing inspection on your home, or

2) You can look at the plumbing in your basement yourself and look for things like pipe color (copper-colored or grey) and whether a magnet sticks to your plumbing. Copper plumbing will be reddish in color. Grey pipe that has a magnet stick to it is likely galvanized. Grey pipe that a magnet will not stick to it is likely lead.

Q: How soon can I get my water tested?

A: We are currently scheduling customers, what is your name, address and contact number. If you are interested is using a different lab. The State of Michigan has a list of certified labs on its website. Please call the DEQ assistance center at 1-800-662-9278.

Q: Is this Flint all over again?

A: No. The City of Hamtramck has not changed its water source or treatment. The city has learned of only a very limited number of water test results that show elevated levels of lead. This prompted us to pursue further testing at a minimum of 60 locations and upon request of a homeowner or water customer. The City of Hamtramck is being very proactive in working with all water customers to help ensure a safe and clean water supply city wide. This is the first of several informational notices. You will receive a Public Education document with more information about lead.

Q: When will I know if my water is safe to drink?

A: To know about lead levels in the water at your home, we encourage you to schedule a test of your water.

Q: Does the testing cost me anything?

A: No. The City of Hamtramck is covering the costs of testing.

Q: Is the City of Hamtramck giving away water filters or bottled water?

A: Yes, the city will provide bottled water and a filter if necessary if your test results are over 15 ppb.

Q: What does 90th percentile mean?

A: If more than 10% of the water samples collected test above the allowable limit of 15 parts per billion (ppb), the City must conduct additional testing and investigate the locations with higher than normal readings.

Q: Is the City of Hamtramck replacing the lead service lines? When?

A: Yes, we are proactively replacing all of the lead lines in the city as they become known, and as state and federal guidelines require.

Q: How long has this been a problem?

A: The City of Hamtramck became aware of the matter during the first week of October 2018, at which time we convened a rapid response team to begin additional testing while providing all city water customers with the information they need for safe drinking water.

Q: If I don't have a lead service line, what do I need to do?

A: Flushing stagnant water from your plumbing before getting a drink is always a good idea. This is especially important, when you've been gone for a weekend, or taken a vacation and your water hasn't been used.

Q: Are there other sources of lead in homes?

A: Yes. Solder (the metal used to join two pieces of pipe) that was installed before 1988 can have lead. Older fixtures can contain lead. Fixtures purchased in 2014 or newer can only have 0.25% lead. Older fixtures can contain up to 8% or more lead based on how old they are. The EPA has a graphic that explain other sources of lead in a home online. You can google, "EPA lead infographic".

Phone numbers for referrals

Service Line questions	Rodney Johnson, rjohnson@hamtramckcity.com , 313-800-5201
Water testing questions	Rodney Johnson, rjohnson@hamtramckcity.com , 313-800-5201
Blood testing questions	Amelia Small asmall@waynecounty.com 734-727-2208
Safe Drinking Water Act questions	Jeni Bolt, boltj@michigan.gov , 517-331-5161

Media Questions

Hamtramck	Michael Bsharah, michaelb@bsharahpr.com 313-289-5901
State of Michigan	Tiffany Brown, brownt22@michigan.gov 517-242-1376

Other General Questions

General State of Michigan (DEQ) questions	1-800-662-9278
General State of Michigan (DHHS) questions	1-800-648-6942
General Wayne Co Health Department questions	Anthony Matlock 734-727-5890 amatlock@waynecounty.com