

Other Sources Of Lead In The Home

Lead Paint

Paint is another potential lead source in the home to which children may be exposed. Prior to 1960, most paints contained substantial amounts of lead. It was not until 1976 that it was a law for indoor paint not to contain lead. Some outdoor paints may still contain lead; however, a warning on the packaging will be present if it contains lead.

Lead Dust

Lead is very common in the environment, particularly in soil. It can be carried inside a house on shoes creating lead dust. Babies and young children have close contact with the floor and tend to put objects and fingers in their mouths. Be sure to clean and vacuum on a regular basis to reduce the amount of dust that may contain lead in your home. Dust with a wet cloth instead of a dry cloth to reduce the amount of dust that can become airborne and then inhaled.



Contact Information:

Parent Child Info Line

(705) 541-7101

Toll Free: 1-888-537-5741

www.algomapublichealth.com

Health Canada

www.hc-sc.gc.ca

Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change

(705) 942-6354

www.ene.gov.on.ca



Algoma

PUBLIC HEALTH

Santé publique Algoma

Algoma Public Health Environmental Health

(705) 759-5286

Toll Free: 1-866-892-0172

www.algomapublichealth.com



PUC Services Inc.

(705) 759-6522

www.ssmruc.com

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What You Need To Know About Lead & Drinking Water



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What Is PUC Doing?

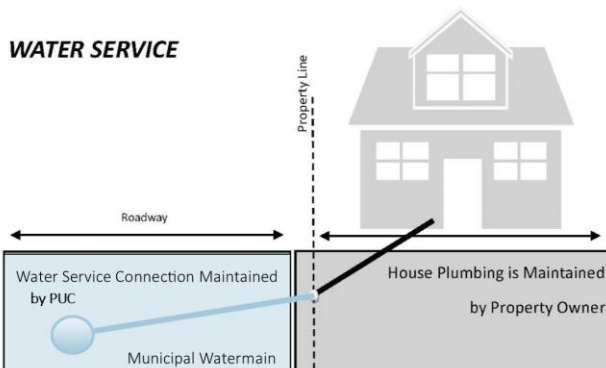
For over a century, PUC has been a customer focused utility, proudly delivering safe and reliable municipal services to the community of Sault Ste. Marie. To ensure the continued safety of our community's drinking water, PUC collects water samples to analyze over 65 various parameters including Lead as required by Ontario Drinking Water Standards.

In addition to specifically treating drinking water to minimize the uptake of Lead, PUC offers a number of other programs to help protect customers from Lead:

- Free lead testing in your home
- Free point of use Lead filters if results exceed provincial standards (10 ppb)
- Free replacement of the municipal portion of the service pipe*
- Interest-free loans offered to customers replacing private portion of the service pipe

*If you believe your service pipe may be Lead, please ask PUC for a free Lead test. If Lead is confirmed, PUC recommends you consult a licensed plumber to replace Lead plumbing on your premises. Afterwards, PUC will replace Lead services up to the property line at no charge.

WATER SERVICE



Why Am I Receiving This?

Homes that were built before the 1950's may have Lead water services. The information provided in this brochure will help you take appropriate steps to reduce exposure to Lead from tap water. Lead can affect the neurological development of the developing fetus and young children.

Children under six years of age are still developing and can absorb lead easier than older children and adults. Pregnant women can pass lead to their fetus through their blood. For more information on the health risks associated with Lead, please contact Algoma Public Health.



Why Sample for Lead in Drinking Water?

Before the 1950's Lead pipe was sometimes used for water services. The National Plumbing Code allowed Lead as an acceptable material in pipes until 1975 and in solder until 1986.

Additionally, brass fixtures also contained Lead. As a result of the use of Lead in these plumbing components, lead can appear in tap water. If the lead concentration in tap water exceeds The Provincial Standards, customers should ensure their tap water is filtered to remove lead until their water service has been replaced.

Get The Best From Your Tap

Avoid consuming tap water that has been sitting in your home's plumbing for extended periods of time. Keep it fresh. Health Canada recommends these simple steps to reduce exposure to Lead from drinking water:

- Flush out your plumbing after water has been sitting in the pipes for a few hours, such as first thing in the morning or when you get home from work.
- Flush the toilet, take a shower or start a load of laundry to clear the water from the service line, then run the tap until the water turns cold (about one minute) before drinking or cooking with any of the water from that tap.
- Only use cold tap water for drinking or cooking, since hot water increases the leaching of Lead and other metals from your plumbing.
- Ensure tap aerators and screens are cleaned on a regular basis
- If you have a Lead water service or if lead in your tap-water exceeds the Provincial Standard, have a filtration system installed that is NSF certified for removing Lead and ensure it is maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions
- For a permanent solution, the sources of Lead that are affecting your water need to be removed. Removing Lead service lines is the most effective way to reduce exposure.

Note: Lead from drinking water is not absorbed through the skin and is not taken in through breathing. As a result, exposure to lead from showering, bathing, dish washing, or cleaning is not a concern.