

Lead in Drinking Water

The Village of Bloomingdale has a long history of delivering drinking water that meets or exceeds all federal and state standards for water quality as regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Safe Drinking Water Act, including compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR).

Since the inception of the LCR in 1991, water utilities have been required to monitor for lead and copper in the water distribution system. The LCR requires water suppliers to deliver water that is minimally corrosive, thereby reducing the likelihood that lead and copper will be introduced into the drinking water from the corrosion of customer lead and copper plumbing materials.

The source of drinking water for the Village of Bloomingdale is Lake Michigan, which contains no detectable lead. Lake Michigan water is treated by the City of Chicago Department of Water Management, which has had a corrosion control program in place since 1993. The Village of Bloomingdale has been in compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule since its inception.

Lead Piping

Lead piping was used in plumbing systems for thousands of years; it is soft enough to form into shapes for piping systems, and it has the ability to resist pinhole leaks. Lead can be found in some water services, interior water pipes, or interior plumbing fixtures. Prior to 1950, lead was commonly used for the installation of water service lines in Illinois. Lead can also be found in interior plumbing fixtures and solder that connects copper plumbing in houses built prior to 1986. Lead found in drinking water usually comes from the corrosion of older fixtures or from the solder that connects pipes. When water sits in leaded pipes for several hours, lead can leach into the water supply.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. The Village of Bloomingdale is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in home plumbing components (faucets, fittings and solder). When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for thirty (30) seconds to two (2) minutes before using the water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may purchase a lead testing kit, provided by a Certified Laboratory (listed below). Residents can also purchase "lead specific" in house filters, but must follow the filter manufacturer requirements. Information on lead in your drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure to lead is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791 or on the web at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead

Certified Laboratories

- Suburban Laboratories 1950 Batavia Avenue Suite 150, Geneva, IL 60134 (708) 544-3260
- Environmental Monitoring and Technologies 8100 North Austin Avenue, Morton Grove, IL 60053 (847) 967-6666

Following the high-profile situation in Flint, Michigan, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency in April of 2016 has identified several enhancements to public health protection as the Federal Lead and Copper Rule is being implemented. One of the enhancements is that every Community Water Supplier (CWS) shall post on its website a map of “Pipe Materials Inventory” of service lines connected to the water distribution system.

This map contains to the best of our knowledge of the water service line materials inventory of our water system.

Water Service Map Disclaimer

The information on this website regarding the physical make-up of private and public water service lines is to the best of the Village’s knowledge, and is not a warranty nor does it guarantee a promise of accuracy. Anyone concerned about the physical make-up of a service line should retain a competent private contractor for verification.