

Menasha Utility and Menasha Health Department

Working Towards a Lead Free Community

Menasha Utilities (MU) and Menasha Health Department care about your health and the health of your family. Menasha Utilities Water Department's first commitment is to public health and lead in drinking water can be harmful. It can impact normal physical and mental development in babies and young children, cause deficits in the attention span, hearing, and learning abilities of children, and increase blood pressure in adults.

Our water supply source is Lake Winnebago; zero lead has been detected in our source water. The water is then filtered, treated, and disinfected at our Water Filtration Plant; there has not been lead detected in the water leaving our plant. We are proud of the high quality water we produce. Our plant Operator's and Technicians are continually monitoring and testing the water making sure it meets all regulations. It is then distributed to our customers through our water distribution system to your homes. Depending on the materials used in your homes plumbing system and our service lines, lead can leach into your drinking water.

Although the primary sources of lead exposure for most children are deteriorating lead-based paint, lead containing dust, and lead contaminated soil, the U.S. EPA estimates that 10 to 20 percent of human exposure to lead may come from drinking water.

Definitions

MU	Menasha Utilities
PPB	Parts per Billion
PPM	Parts per Million
Curb Stop	underground valve that can shut the water off.
AL	Action Level

How small is a part per million or a part per billion?

1. In an Olympic size swimming pool. (660,000 gallons)
 - 1 PPM = 1 ¼ two liter bottles
 - 1 PPB = ½ teaspoon

What are the sources of lead in our lives?

1. Water Lines and plumbing fixtures
2. Lead based paint and varnish
3. Contaminated soils and dusts

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How does Lead get into your Drinking Water?

1. Old lead services lines from the street to the house.
 - Lead was installed until about 1950.
2. Lead Solder in pipes in your home
 - Banned in Wisconsin in 1984.
3. Lead plumbing fixtures including faucets.

How much lead is too much lead?

1. There is no known level of lead exposure that is considered safe.

How is lead regulated by the State of Wisconsin?

1. Action Level for lead is 15 ppb
2. The lead action level is exceeded if the concentration of lead in more than 10% of tap water samples collected during any monitoring period conducted is greater than 15 ppb, which means if the "90th percentile" lead level is greater than 15 ppb.

What are the latest test results for Menasha Utility?

1. Menasha Utilities tests 30 sites every 3 years as required. If the 90th percentile is less than 15 ppb (If 27 of the 30 samples are less than 15 ppb) Menasha Utilities is in compliance of the regulations.
2. Menasha latest test results are 11.0 ppb at the 90th percentile (6/18/2014).
3. Next test due in 2017.

What are some steps you can take to reduce lead and protect your family?

1. Run your water for 3 to 4 minutes before drinking, cooking, or making baby formula.
2. ALWAYS wash your child's hand with soap and water.
 - Before snacks and meals.
 - After playing outside.
3. Boiling water will not reduce lead.
4. Identify if your plumbing fixtures contain lead.

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How is Menasha Utilities addressing Lead in our System?

Four-Fold Approach.

1. Corrosion Control

Corrosion is the deterioration of a material due to interaction with its environment. In other words corrosion causes the release of the material the pipe is made of into the water traveling thru the pipes. We chemically treat our water so it less corrosive by adjusting the pH of the water and with Sodium Silicate to coat the pipes to protect them from corrosion.

2. Unidirectional Flushing Program

Unidirectional flushing is a maintenance procedure used to scour, clean, and improve the carrying capacity of our water distribution system. This procedure helps us continue to provide our high-quality drinking water to our customers.

3. Removal of Lead Services

MU has been replacing their portion of lead services since 1990 when installing new mains. We have been encouraging home owner to replace their portion at that time also. We are exploring financing options for resident at this time and look to create an ordinance to require the replacement of the customer's portion of the service.

1. *Lead Service Line* means a service line made of lead that connects the water main to the building inlet.
2. *Partial lead service line replacement* is the practice of replacing only the portion of a lead service line on Menasha Utilities side of the service (from the shut off valve usually located in the terrace).
3. *Full lead service line replacement* involves replacing both the portion of the lead service line owned by the customer (from the shut off valve to the meter in the house) as well as that owned by Menasha Utilities.

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How do I know if I have a Lead service?

1. Was your home built before 1950?
2. Check your plumbing fixtures.
3. Check the line coming into your house. Generally, if it is a dull gray in color and the metal is very soft. If you take a key and carefully scratch the surface of the pipe, the area will turn a bright silver color if the pipe is lead. (see below)
4. Call us at 967-3431 and we will help you to determine the type of service you have.

Lead Pipe



Who is responsible for the costs of replacing lead services?

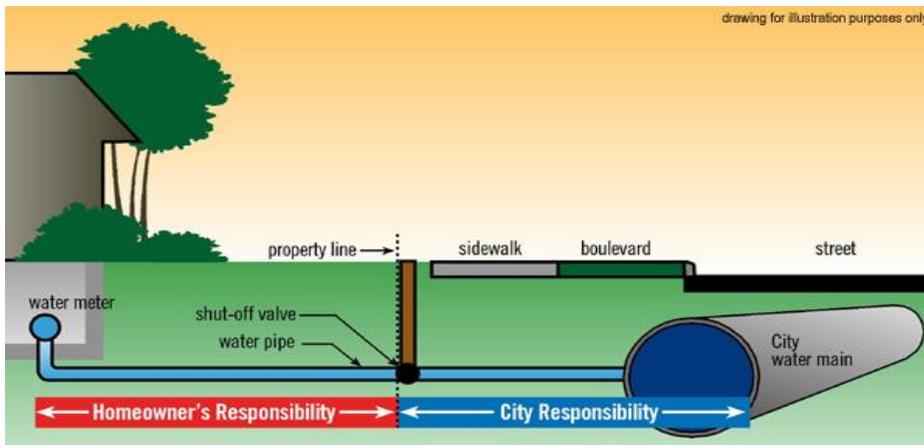
1. From the curb stop to the water main is owned by MU and the Utility is responsible for the cost of replacement.
2. From the curb stop to the house is owned by the home owner and the home owner is responsible for the cost of replacement.

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Typical Curb Stop



From Curb Stop or shut off valve to the main is owned by Menasha Utilities. From curb stop or shut off valve to home is owned by the homeowner. It is not the property line but the curb stop that divides ownership and responsibility.



4. Community Education

- Annual Consumer Confident Report
- Updating Menasha Utility Web Site
- Thru Social Media
- Working with Menasha Health Department striving for a lead free community.

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Where Lead-Based Paint is found?

In general, the older your home or childcare facility, the more likely it has lead-based paint.

Many homes, including private, federally-assisted, federally owned housing, and childcare facilities built before 1978 have lead based paint. In 1978, the federal government banned consumer uses of lead containing paint.

IMPORTANT!

Lead from Paint, Dust, and Soil in and Around Your Home can be Dangerous if Not Managed Properly.

- Children under 6 years old are most at risk for lead poisoning in your home.
- Lead exposure can harm young children and babies even before they are born.
- Homes, schools, and child care facilities built before 1978 are likely to contain lead-based paints.
- Even children who seem healthy may have dangerous levels of lead in their bodies.
- Disturbing surfaces with lead-based paint or removing lead-based paint improperly can increase the danger to your family.
- People can get lead into their bodies by breathing or swallowing lead dust, or by eating soil or paint chips containing lead.

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Identifying Lead-Based Paint and Lead Based Paint Hazards.

Deteriorating lead-based paint (peeling, chipping, chalking, cracking, or damaged paint) is a hazard and needs immediate attention. Lead Based paint may also be a hazard when found on surface that children can chew or that get a lot of wear and tear, such as:

- On windows and window sills
- Doors and frames
- Stairs, railing, banisters, and porches.

Lead –based paint is usually not a hazard if it is good condition and if it is not on impact or friction surface like a window.

Lead Dust

Lead Dust can form when lead-based paint is scraped, sanded, or heated. Lead dust chips also forms when painted surfaces containing lead bump or rub together. Lead paint chips and dust can get on surfaces and objects that people touch. Settled lead dust can reenter the air when the home is vacuumed or swept, or when people walk through it.

Lead in Soil

Lead in soil can be a hazard when children play in bare soil or when people bring soil into the house on their shoes.

Remember, lead from paint chips-which you can see-and lead dust –which you may not be able to see-both can be hazardous.

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The only way to find out if paint, dust, or soil lead hazard exists is to test for them.

Checking Your Home for Lead

You can get your home tested for lead in several different ways.

1. A lead-based paint inspection tells you if your home has lead-based paint and where it is located. It won't tell you whether your home currently has lead hazards. A trained and certified testing professional called a lead-based paint inspector, will conduct a paint inspection using methods such as:
 - Portable x-ray fluorescence (XRF) machine.
 - Lab tests of paint samples
2. A risk assessment tells you if your home currently has any hazards from lead from paint, dust, or soil. It also tells you what action to take to address any hazards. A trained and certified testing professional, called a risk assessor will:
 - Sample paint that has deteriorated on doors, windows, floors, stairs, and walls
 - Sample dust near painted surfaces and sample bare soil in the yard.
 - Get lab tests of paint, dust, and soil samples.
3. A combination inspection and risk assessment tells you if your home has any lead-based paint and if your home has any lead hazards, and where both are located.

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What You Can Do Now to Protect Your Family.

If you suspect that your house has lead-based paint hazards, you can take some immediate steps to reduce your family's risk:

- If you rent, notify your landlord of peeling or chipping paint.
- Keep painted surfaces clean and free of dust. Clean floors, window frames, window sills, and other surfaces weekly. Use mops or sponges with warm water and a general all-purpose cleaner. (Remember: never mix ammonia and bleach products together because they can form a dangerous gas.)
- Carefully clean up paint chips immediately without creating dust.
- Thoroughly rinse sponges and mop heads often during cleaning of dirty and dusty areas, and again afterwards.
- Wash your hands and your children's hands often, especially before they eat and before nap time and bed time.
- Keep play areas clean. Wash bottles, pacifiers, toys, and stuffed animals regularly.
- Keep children from chewing on window sills or other painted surfaces, or eating soil.
- When renovating, repairing, or painting, hire only EPA or State approved Lead Safe renovation firms.
- Clean or remove shoes before entering your home to avoid tracking in lead from soil.
- Make sure children eat nutritious, low-fat meals high in iron, and calcium, such as spinach and dairy products. Children with good diets absorb less lead.

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