



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Adam Smith  
Menasha Utilities  
321 Milwaukee Street  
Menasha, WI 54952  
asmith@wppienergy.org  
(920)967-3451

Todd Drew  
City of Menasha Health Department  
100 Main Street, Suite 100  
Menasha, WI 54952  
tdrew@ci.menasha.wi.us  
(920)967-3520

## MENASHA TAKING ACTION TO REDUCE LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

MENASHA, Wis. (June 24, 2019) –As Menasha Utilities has previously reported, lead levels in some homes in the City are above the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) action limit. Menasha Utilities continuously addresses this health concern and is committed to informing and educating customers about lead.

**Menasha Utilities source water, mains, and finished drinking water do not contain lead.** Water service laterals owned by the property owner and plumbing in homes built before 1950 are more likely to have lead, and homes built prior to 1984 could have lead solder. When water is in contact with pipes (or service lines) and plumbing containing lead for several hours, the lead may enter drinking water.

### **Menasha Utilities takes the following actions to address lead in drinking water:**

- Performs uni-directional flushing to remove minerals from water main walls.
- Operates a corrosion control program to reduce lead impacts and evaluates its impact.
- Obtained a \$500,000 grant to replace 200 lead water service laterals owned by the property owner since 2017
- Replaces lead service lines on streets where water mains are being replaced
- Coordinates with the Menasha Health Department to identify lead risks in homes and offer technical assistance to reduce these risks.
- Provides information on our lead program on our website and with the Utility bill. Customers can also learn more at various events such as the Public Power event at the Utility office on October 10.

### **Customers can take these actions to address lead in drinking water:**

- Have your water tested for lead by a certified lab. Call Menasha Utilities or visit [menashautilities.com](http://menashautilities.com) for more information.
- Contact the Water Department or the Menasha Health Department to:
  - Confirm the age of your home and determine lead service type
  - Request technical assistance to identify and reduce lead hazards.

- If there is potential for elevated levels of lead in your drinking water:
  - Let the water run at least 1-2 minutes until very cold in the morning or if unused for 6 hours.
  - Do not cook with, make baby formula, or drink water from an unfiltered hot water tap.
  - Obtain a water filtration device to remove lead for consumption. Purchase a water filter from the Menasha Health Department, at Utility events, or from stores. Make sure the filter is certified by the National Safety Foundation (NSF) to remove 99% of lead.
- Customers can replace their lead service. Programs that are available to help offset costs can be found at <https://www.menashautilities.com/important-information-lead>.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the EPA agree there is no known safe level of lead in a child's blood. The EPA estimates that 20 percent of human exposure to lead may come from drinking water. Other sources include deteriorated lead paint (in homes built before 1978), contaminated soils and dust.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, call the Menasha Health Department, visit the Menasha Health Department's website <http://www.cityofmenasha-wi.gov/departments/health/lead.php> or the EPA's website <https://www.epa.gov/lead>, or consult with your healthcare provider. Water quality test data for Menasha Utilities can be found on Wisconsin DNR website at <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/drinkingWater/qualityData.html> under public water system ID 47103342.

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