



The Borough of Waynesboro

55 EAST MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 310
WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA 17268
(717) 762-2101 TELEPHONE
(717) 762-4707 FAX

WWW.WAYNESBOROPA.ORG

December 26, 2019

Dear Valued Waynesboro Water Customer:

The purpose of this correspondence is to provide educational information regarding how your household plumbing components may potentially contain lead material and could potentially impact your drinking water. The Waynesboro Borough Authority conducts routine testing of tap water from homes built before 1986. On one (1) occasion, lead levels at actionable levels were detected. The enclosed brochure provides important information about your drinking water. The below information is provided in an effort to respond to commonly asked questions.

Q: Where was lead detected?

A: Lead was detected at actionable levels in four (4) samples taken from residents' household taps. These houses were constructed before 1986. Follow-up sampling indicated that lead levels dropped below reportable levels.¹ No lead has been detected in the Authority's source water (water in the public portion of the water system).

Q: Why am I receiving this notice?

A: The Authority is required to provide notice to customers when actionable levels of lead are detected at any household plumbing tap.

Q: If lead is present, where is it coming from?

A: Lead is most likely to enter water from household plumbing components. The Authority is not aware of any lead components in the publicly-owned drinking water system.

Q: What household plumbing components potentially contain lead?

A: Metal faucets and fixtures made from brass often contain lead impurities. Brass fixtures can leach lead (even in homes with plastic water lines). Solder (a material used to join copper pipes) may contain lead. Laws have restricted the amount of lead allowed in new pipes, fixtures, and solder, but many homes contain older materials. Homes built after 1986 are less likely to have household plumbing components containing lead.

¹ One (1) home was not resampled, because it was vacant when resampling occurred.

Q: How did plumbing components containing lead enter my home?

A: If your home was constructed before 1986, there is a chance that a home builder, contractor, or homeowner installed pipes containing lead, fixtures containing lead, or soldered copper pipe with a leaded product. The Federal Government passed the Safe Drinking Water Act in 1986, which prohibits the use of lead in household plumbing.

Q: If I want to test my water for lead, how do I do it?

A: A list of state-accredited water testing labs is available on the PA Department of Environmental Protection website. Find a laboratory that is certified to test for lead. Pick up a sample bottle and instructions on how to properly collect a sample. If you have further questions regarding lead sampling, please contact our Water Plant at: (717) 765-4512.

Q: What can I do to reduce the potential for Lead in my drinking water?

A: There are numerous methods that can be used to reduce potential for Lead, and they include:

- 1. Flushing your household water system (running a cold tap for a few minutes). Water from the cold water tap should be used for drinking and cooking since hot water can dissolve lead more quickly than cold.**
- 2. Installing acid-neutralizing filters. These filters reduce corrosivity in your household water system by adding calcium and by increasing the PH of water. However, these systems can result in an increase in the hardness of your water.**
- 3. Installing a reverse osmosis filter unit. These methods are very effective in removing lead from your household water. Contact a reputable water treatment expert to discuss which filtration method may be right for you.**
- 4. Replacing leaded components in your household plumbing.**

Q: Will the Authority be conducting additional tests for lead?

A: Yes, the Authority will continue to sample household tap water for lead. If your home was constructed prior to 1986, please contact the Waynesboro Water Treatment Plant at: (717) 765-4512 to be placed on a list of homes that will be randomly selected for testing.

Q: Will the Authority notify me if actionable levels of lead are detected again?

A: Yes, the Authority will notify customers if actionable levels of lead are detected again. This notice is the first time in 25 years that the Authority's household tap water sampling has detected lead at reportable levels.

Please read the enclosed brochure carefully and reference our website for additional resources at www.waynesboropa.org/lead. If you have any questions or require any additional information, feel free to contact our office at: (717) 762-2101.