



# LEAD



**American Water tests for lead — and provides additional treatment where needed — and the water we deliver to customers meets all state and federal requirements.**

Lead can pose a serious health risk, particularly to developing fetuses, infants and children. If lead exists in your household plumbing, take the steps needed to minimize your potential exposure.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
New Jersey American Water Customer Service Center:  
1-800-272-1325  
M-F, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Check us out online  
newjerseyamwater.com

For more information on drinking water standards: Contact the EPA Hotline at 1-800-426-4791

## The most common source of lead in tap water is from the customer’s plumbing and their service line.

Providing safe, reliable water supply is our top priority. We test and monitor for a wide range of contaminants, including lead.

While these tests indicate that lead is not an issue in the treated water leaving our facilities, lead levels might be detected at some properties due to corrosion of:

- **Lead service line** serving older homes and buildings
- **Lead solder** in household plumbing installed before the EPA lead ban in 1986
- **Some faucets** manufactured prior to 2014

It might also be detected if sediment, possibly containing lead, is released from a lead service line during repair projects, or a **partial replacement of the lead service line** serving your home is performed.

**CHECK YOUR PLUMBING AND SERVICE LINE.**  
If you live in an older home, consider having a licensed plumber check your plumbing for lead. If your service line is made of lead, and you’re planning to replace it, be sure to contact us at 1-800-272-1325.

## MINIMIZING YOUR POTENTIAL EXPOSURE

You cannot see, smell or taste lead, and boiling water will not remove lead. Here are steps you can take to reduce your potential exposure if lead exists in your home plumbing.

-  **1. Flush your taps.** The longer the water lies dormant in your home’s plumbing, the more lead it might contain. If the water in your faucet has gone unused for more than six hours, flush the tap with cold water for 30 seconds to two minutes before drinking or using it to cook. To conserve water, catch the running water and use it to water your plants.
-  **2. Use cold water for drinking and cooking.** Hot water has the potential to contain more lead than cold water. If hot water is needed for cooking, heat cold water on the stove or in the microwave.
-  **3. Routinely remove and clean all faucet aerators.**
-  **4. Look for the “Lead Free” label** when replacing or installing plumbing fixtures.
-  **5. Follow manufacturer’s instructions for replacing water filters** in household appliances, such as refrigerators and ice makers, as well as home water treatment units and pitchers. Look for NSF 53 certified filters.
-  **6. Flush after plumbing changes.** Changes to your service line, meter, or interior plumbing may result in sediment, possibly containing lead, in your water supply. Remove the strainers from each faucet and run the water for 3 to 5 minutes.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED Q AND A

## GETTING YOUR WATER TESTED FOR LEAD

New Jersey American Water does not provide testing for lead for individual customers who request it. Customers can choose to have their water tested at their cost at a certified laboratory.

### For more information

If you are still concerned about elevated levels and want to find out where you can have your water tested by a certified laboratory:

- **Contact EPA's Safe Drinking Water Act Hotline:**  
1-800-426-4791
- **Visit DEP online at**  
[www.state.nj.us/dep](http://www.state.nj.us/dep)

## IS LEAD IN WATER REGULATED?

Yes. The EPA's lead standard is an action level that requires treatment modifications if lead test results exceed 15 parts per billion (ppb) in more than 10 percent of first draw samples taken from household taps.

New Jersey American Water regularly tests for lead at the end of its treatment process. Testing has shown that lead is not an issue in the water exiting any of our water treatment facilities. We also conduct tests in our distribution system in accordance with the EPA regulatory requirements. In addition, we take steps to reduce the potential of lead leaching from service lines and household pipes into the water by managing the pH levels in the water leaving our treatment facilities and adding a corrosion inhibitor where needed.

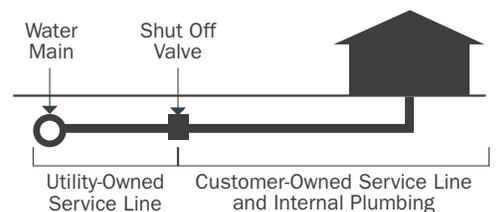
Learn more at [newjerseyamwater.com](http://newjerseyamwater.com). Under the **Water Quality** menu, select **Lead and Drinking Water**.

## DOES THAT MEAN I DO NOT HAVE LEAD IN MY WATER?

Not necessarily. You might have lead in your drinking water if your service line, household plumbing or fixtures contain lead. Lead test strips that test for the presence of lead in plumbing are available at hardware stores.

Homes built before 1930 are more likely to have lead plumbing systems. Lead pipes are dull grey color and scratch easily revealing a shiny surface. If your house was built before January 1986, you are more likely to have lead-soldered joints on copper piping. Lead solder is a silver or grey color. If you do, the chance of the lead leaching into your drinking water is greater when water has been standing in the pipes for many hours or overnight.

### UTILITY-OWNED VS. CUSTOMER-OWNED PORTION OF THE SERVICE LINE



Please note: This diagram is a generic representation. Variations may apply.

## SHOULD I FLUSH MY FAUCETS EVERY MORNING BEFORE USING IT TO DRINK OR USE FOR FOOD PREP?

Yes. See Minimizing Your Potential Exposure on the opposite side.

## HOW CAN I TELL IF MY WATER CONTAINS LEAD?

You can have your water tested for lead. Since you cannot see, taste or smell lead dissolved in water, testing is the only sure way of knowing.

## DO I NEED A HOME FILTER FOR LEAD?

The need for a home treatment device is a customer decision. If you choose to purchase a home filter, NSF International created a Consumer Guide to NSF Certified Lead Filtration Devices for Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water. For more information, visit [www.nsf.org/info/leadfiltrationguide](http://www.nsf.org/info/leadfiltrationguide).

Always consult the device manufacturer for information on treatment device maintenance and potential impacts to your drinking water or household plumbing.

## WILL ELECTRICAL GROUNDING INCREASE MY LEAD LEVELS?

Possibly. If grounding wires from electrical systems are attached to household plumbing, corrosion and potential lead exposure may be greater. Customers can choose to pay to have an electrician check the house wiring.

