



TOWN OF CAZENOVIA • 7 ALBANY STREET • CAZENOVIA • NY 13035 • 315-655-9213

Lead in Drinking Water

Under Federal and NYS regulations, we are required to have a program in place to minimize lead in your drinking water.

This program includes:

1. Public education content
2. Corrosion control treatment (treating the water to make it less likely that lead will dissolve into the water).
3. Source water treatment (removing any lead that is in the water at the time it leaves our treatment facility).

We are also required to replace the portion of each lead service line that we own if the line contributes lead concentrations of more than 15 ppb after we have completed the comprehensive treatment program. If you have any questions about how we are carrying out requirements of the lead regulation, please contact the Madison County Department of Health at 315-366-2361, or the New York State Department of Health at 1-800-458-1158.

This letter also explains the simple steps you can take to protect yourself by reducing your exposure to lead in drinking water.

Importation Information about Lead in Your Drinking Water

The Town of Cazenovia Water Department had no sample results of levels of lead in drinking water above the action level of 15 ug/l in homes/buildings. Lead can cause serious health problem, especially for pregnant women and young children. ***Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.***

Health Effects of Lead

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The child or women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of those adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous systems problems.

Sources of Lead

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. Drinking water is one possible source of lead exposure. The primary source of lead exposure for most children is lead-based paint. Other sources of lead include lead-contaminated dust or soil, and some plumbing materials.

Plumbing materials, including pipes, new brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free", may contribute lead to drinking water. The law currently allows pipes, fittings, and fixtures with up to 0.25 percent weighted average of lead to be identified as "lead-free". Lead can be also found in a number of consumer products, including certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics.

Other sources include exposure in the workplace (jobs that include house painting, plumbing, renovation, construction, auto repair, welding, electronics repair, jewelry or pottery repair) and exposure from certain hobbies (such as stained glass or pottery, fishing, making or shooting firearms and collected lead or pewter figurines), as lead can be carried on clothing and shoes.

Children's hands or their toys can come into contact with lead in paint, dust and soil. Therefore, washing children's hands and their toys will help reduce the potential for lead exposure from these sources.

Steps You Can Take to Reduce Your Exposure to Lead in Your Water

- 1. Run your water to flush out lead.** Before drinking, flush your home's pipes for several minutes by running the tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or doing a load of dishes. The amount of time to run the water will depend on whether your home has a lead service line or not, and the length of the lead service line. Resident should contact their water utility for recommendations about flushing times in their community.
- 2. Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily in hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
- 3. Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead.
- 4. Replace your plumbing fixtures if they are found to contain lead.** Plumbing materials including brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free", may contribute lead to drinking water. The law previously allowed end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 8% lead to be labeled as "lead-free". As of January 4, 2014, end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, fittings, and valves, must meet the new "lead-free" definition of having no more than 0.25% lead on a weighted average. Visit the NSF website at: http://nsf.org/newsroom_pdf/Lead_free_certification_marks.pdf to learn more about lead containing plumbing fixtures and how to identify lead-free certification marks on new fixtures.
- 5. Use bottled water or use a water filter.** If your home is served by a lead service line, or if lead-containing plumbing materials are found to be in your home, you may consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF at 1-800-NSF-8010 (1-800-673-8010) or visit: https://info.nsf.org/Certified/dwtu/listings_leadreduction.asp, for a consumer guide of approved water filters. In conjunction with flushing, properly operated filters are highly effective at reducing lead exposure. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to protect water quality. Any measure you take to reduce your exposure to lead should be continued until the lead source(s) has been minimized or eliminated.

Should you test your water for lead?

If lead-containing plumbing materials are identified in your home, you may want to consider testing your water for lead to determine how much lead is in your drinking water.

Should your children be tested for lead?

New York Public Health Law requires primary health care providers to screen each child for blood lead levels at one and two years of age as part of routine well-child care. In addition, at each routine well-child visit, or at least annually if a child has not had routine well-child visits, primary health care providers assess each child who is at least six months of age, but under six years of age, for high lead exposure. Each child found to be a risk for high lead exposure is screened or referred for lead screening.

If your child has not had routine well-child visits (since the age of one year) and you are concerned about lead exposure to your child, contact your healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead.

Additional Information

See the lead service lines posted on the website (www.townofcazenovia.org) (under Water Districts tab) or you can view the physical copy at the Town Office located at 7 Albany Street, Cazenovia.

You may contact the Bureau of Water Supply Protection at bpwsp@health.ny.gov for information on financing programs and information on assistance opportunities for customer owned services.

Other websites with Funding Opportunities:

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/identifying-funding-sources-lead-service-line-replacement>

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-nearly-90-million-replace-lead-service-lines-and-protect-drinking>

<https://efc.ny.gov/wiia-im-eligibility>

For More Information

Visit our website at www.townofcazenovia.org (under Water Districts tab). For more information on lead in drinking water, contact Madison County Department of Health at 315-366-2361, or the New York State Department of Health directly by calling the toll-free number (within New York State) 1-800-458-1158, extension 27650, or out of state at 518-402-7650, or by email at bpwsp@health.ny.gov. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at www.epa.gov/lead, or call the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD.

Water System: The Town of Cazenovia

State Water System ID: Cobblefield Wellington Estates: NY261115
New Woodstock Water District: NY2602380
Mount Pleasant Water District: NY2622401

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