



LEAD: THE FACTS

What you need to know in East Grand Rapids

1

WHAT WAS LEAD USED FOR IN MY HOME OR BUSINESS?

Lead is a naturally occurring metal that was used regularly in a number of industrial capacities for most of the 20th century. It was used as a component of paint, piping (including drinking water service lines), solder and brass.

2

WHEN WERE LEAD SERVICES INSTALLED IN THE DRINKING WATER SYSTEM?

According to the Michigan Rural Water Association, lead services were installed into the 1930s when they were phased out. Because some contractors and plumbers had excess inventories, it is possible that lead services were installed in both municipal and residential water line services at later times.

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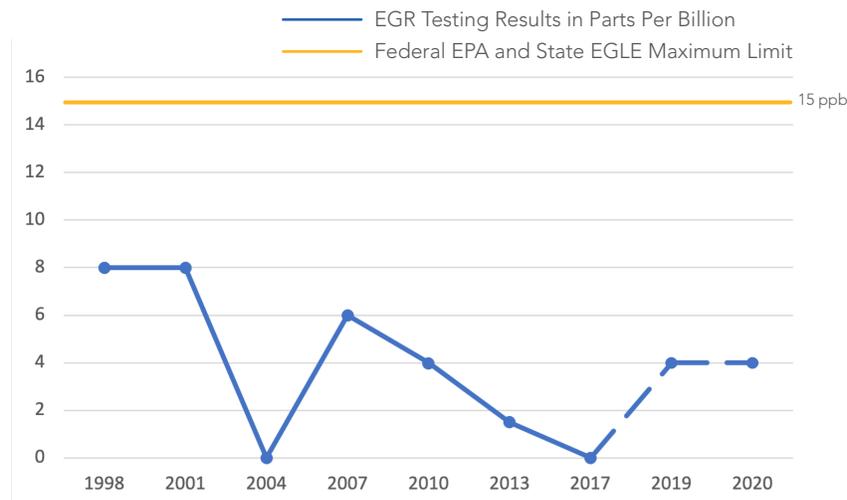
ARE WATER MAINS MADE OF LEAD?

No. Water mains in EGR consist of cast and ductile iron.

4

WHAT ARE THE LEAD LEVELS IN THE EAST GRAND RAPIDS WATER SYSTEM?

In 1994, the City of Grand Rapids (EGR's source of drinking water) began treating water with phosphates, an anti-corrosive additive that coats the interior of pipes. This coating creates a barrier that protects pipes from corroding and leaching lead or copper into the water supply. Over time, lead in drinking water has dramatically decreased due to this treatment. The federal maximum limit for drinking water for lead is 15 parts per billion (ppb). In 1998, East Grand Rapids tested at 8 ppb. After years of treatment with phosphates to coat pipes, the tests continue to show low lead levels. Since EGLE modified its methodology to more accurately determine lead levels, EGR's levels increased to 4 ppb, which is still well below the current action level.



*The dashed line denotes the change in sampling in EGLE's methodology in 2019.



I'M WORRIED ABOUT LEAD IN MY HOME.

GENERAL LEAD INFORMATION

Kent County Health Department,
Environmental Health Services: 616.632.6900

University of Michigan Lead FAQ: bit.ly/2OLUVLR

OLDER HOMES & LEAD PAINT CONCERNS

Healthy Homes Coalition: 616.241.3300,
healthyhomescoalition.org

WATER QUALITY TESTING

Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE): michigan.gov/egle

There are also several private laboratories in the Grand Rapids area that are EGLE certified that can test water samples:

ALS Laboratory Group: 616.399.6070
Prein and Newhof: 616.364.7600
TriMatrix Laboratories: 616.975.4500

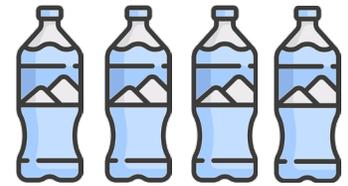
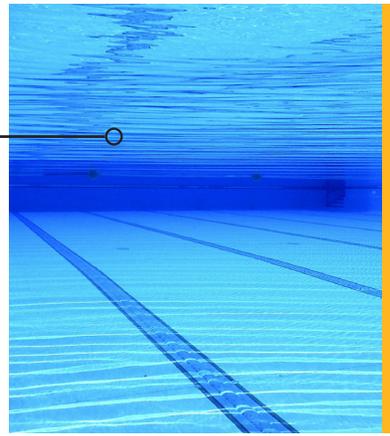


Lead service with coated layer from phosphate treatment

5

WHAT IS PPB?

Parts per billion is the measurement used to describe small dimensions. 1 ppb is the equivalent of a single drop of water in an olympic-sized swimming pool.



DID YOU KNOW?

FDA-approved bottled water may contain up to 5 ppb. Therefore, EGR water, at 4 ppb, is safe enough to, in theory, be bottled, sold and consumed safely.

6

ARE RESIDENTS NOTIFIED OF WHAT'S IN THE DRINKING WATER?

The City mails a consumer confidence report (CCR) every year to property owners. The CCR is sent out in the spring and notes all the testing results and parameters for water. CCR reports and other testing reports are also available online at eastgr.org/watersewer.

7

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WATER SERVICES AND WHEN ARE THEY REPLACED?

Only residents with records indicating that their private service may contain lead are notified. The public service is from the water main to the shut-off of the property, typically located near the property boundary and public right-of-way adjacent to a sidewalk. The private portion is from the shut-off to the home. The City replaces water services if/when there is a leak or when a water main is replaced. Property owners may elect to replace a private lead service line at any time with a permit from the City. If a private lead service is replaced and the public side is determined to be lead, the City will replace the public portion at the same time at no cost. Under the new lead and copper rule, the City will replace public and private lead services if your home is within limits of a water main replacement rehabilitation project.

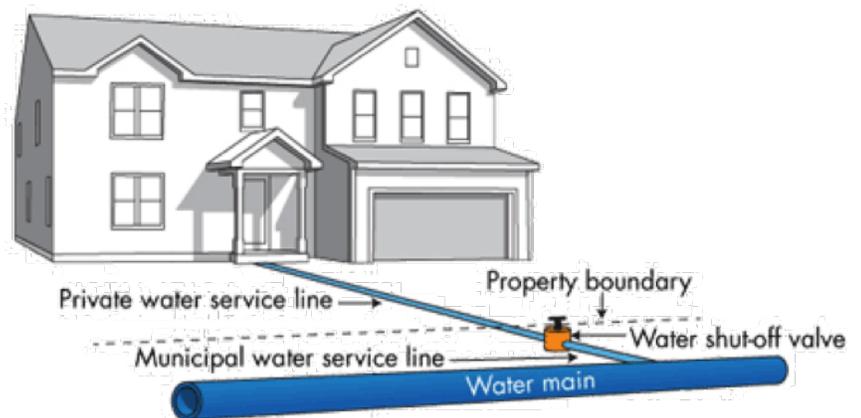
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IF THE LEAD SERVICE IS REPLACED, DOES THIS MEAN THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF LEAD IN MY WATER?

There are three components to lead piping as it relates to a property:

- The City portion of the service from the main to the shut-off/curb stop
- The property owner's portion from the shut-off/curb stop to the water meter
- The interior plumbing in the home

If any of these portions of plumbing contain lead pipe or lead solder, there is potential for the presence of lead. If the City replaces a lead service through maintenance or a project, it is possible that the property owner's portion of a service is still lead. Lead solder was used until 1988 for internal pipe plumbing. With excess lead solder in the market, it is possible that it could have been used into the early 1990s. Unless all of these areas of plumbing are addressed, it cannot be guaranteed that there is no presence of lead in the drinking water of a home or business. As noted, the coating of pipes with phosphates as part of the water treatment process helps protect against any of these sections of piping that may contain lead.



9

WHAT SOURCE OF LEAD CONTAMINATION IS GREATEST WHEN IT COMES TO LEAD AND MY PROPERTY/HOME?

According to the EPA, lead paint and contaminated dust and soil are the leading household sources of lead exposure.

10

WHERE CAN I GET MY WATER TESTED?

The City of EGR does not currently provide this service unless you partake in our sampling pool, which follows strict protocols. If you would like to be considered for our sampling group, please call the Public Works Department - Operations Division at 616.940.4870. If you would like to get your water tested more quickly, we advise you to contact the EGLE-certified labs listed on the first page of this document. You can also visit michigan.gov/eglelab to learn more about EGLE's laboratory services.