



LEAD: THE FACTS

What you need to know in East Grand Rapids

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WHAT WAS LEAD USED FOR IN MY HOME OR BUSINESS?

Lead is a naturally occurring metal that was used regularly by various industries for most of the 20th century. It was used in 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 service lines were installed into the 1930s before they were phased out. Because some contractors and plumbers had excess inventories, it is possible lead service lines were used in municipal and residential water systems at later times.

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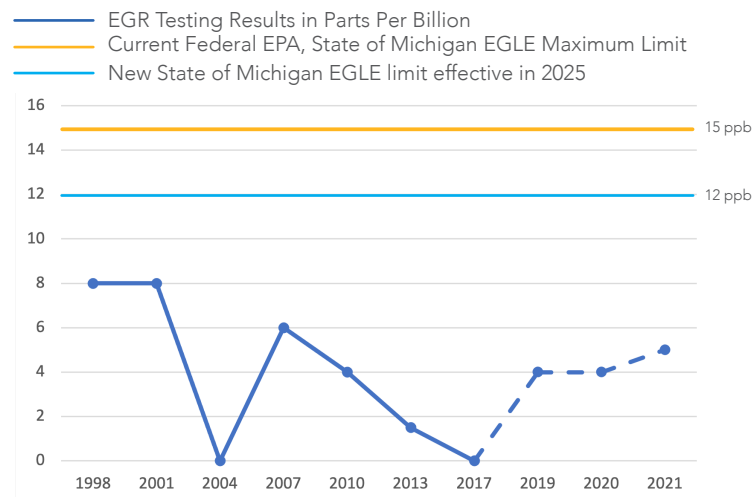
ARE WATER MAINS MADE OF LEAD?

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 currently 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 tested at 5 ppb, which is still well below the current action level. In 2021, EGLE reviewed water quality sample results from the EGR distribution system and noted the corrosion control treatment is working. In 2025, EGLE will set a more stringent requirement for drinking water than that of the federal EPA to 12 ppb.



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



I'M WORRIED ABOUT LEAD IN MY HOME.

HEALTH EFFECTS OF LEAD

Kent County Health Department,
Community Wellness Division: 616.632.7063

HOME HEALTH SCREENINGS (Must have household member who is pregnant or age 5 or younger)

Kent County Health Department,
Ready by Five: 616.632.7320

WATER QUALITY TESTING

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

Several private EGLE-certified laboratories in the area can test water samples, including:

ALS Laboratory Group: 616.399.6070
Prein and Newhof: 616.364.7600



Prior sampling



New "first and fifth liter" sampling

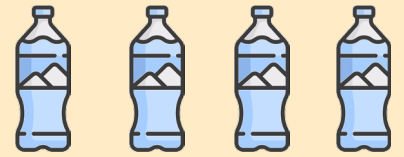
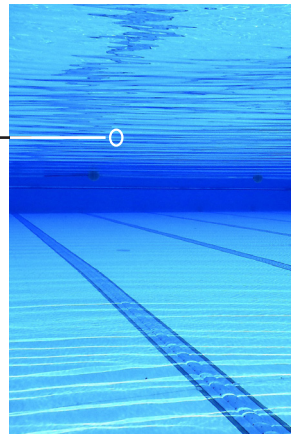


Lead service lines with coated layer from phosphate treatment

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WHAT IS PPB?

Parts per billion is the measurement for 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. That means EGR water, with levels at or below 5 ppb for the past decade, would be eligible for FDA approval to be bottled and sold.

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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. The CCR and other testing reports are also available online at eastgr.org/watersewer.

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

In 2019, the City notified all EGR residents and property owners about lead service lines based on a records review. The City used the construction year and type of infrastructure to identify properties with possible lead service lines and then provided additional information to those property owners. The City actively replaces water service lines if and when there is a leak or when a water main is replaced. However, 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 line is replaced and the public side is lead, the City replaces the public portion at the same time at no cost. Under the new lead and copper rule, the City replaces public and private lead service lines if the home is within limits of a water main replacement project. Through 2024, the City is hydro excavating all water service lines in the public right of way to ensure it exceeds EGLE's inventory assessment requirements. This inventory will enable the City to identify replacement areas beyond infrastructure projects, including water main rehab/replacement and street projects.

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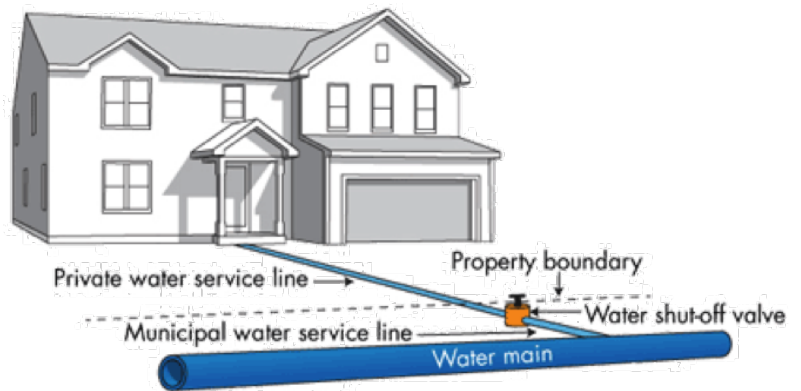
IF THE LEAD SERVICE IS REPLACED, DOES THIS MEAN THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF LEAD IN MY WATER?

No. If any of the following contain lead piping or solder, there is potential for the presence of lead:

- City portion of the service from the water main to the shut-off/curb stop.
- Property owner's portion from the shut-off/curb stop to the water meter.
- Interior plumbing in the home, including faucets.

If the City replaces a lead service line through maintenance or a project, it is possible the property owner's portion of a service is still lead. Lead solder was used for internal pipe plumbing until 1988. With excess lead solder in the market, it is possible it could have been used into the early 1990s. The Safe Drinking Water Act for plumbing components did not go into effect until 2014, so earlier faucets can contain lead.

Unless all of these areas of plumbing are addressed, it cannot be guaranteed 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.



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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.

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WHERE CAN I GET MY WATER TESTED?

The City of EGR does not offer water testing unless you participate in our sampling pool, which follows strict protocols. If you want to be considered for our sampling group, please call the Public Works Department's Operations Division at 616.940.4870. The Kent County Health Department offers lead analysis as a part of its drinking water testing by request and for a fee. For more information, visit accesskent.com/Health/laboratory.htm or call 616.632.7210. If you want your water tested more quickly, please contact an EGLE-certified laboratory listed on the first page of this document. To learn more about EGLE's lab services, visit michigan.gov/eglelab.