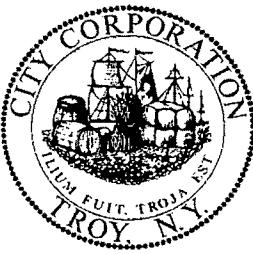


**Patrick Madden**

*Mayor*

**Monica Kurzejeski**

*Deputy Mayor*



**Chris Wheland**

*Superintendent of Public Utilities*

Phone: (518) 237-0193

Fax: (518) 233-7038

Chris.wheland@troyny.gov

## Department of Public Utilities

25 Water Plant Road  
Troy, New York 12182

December 2, 2021

Dear Resident,

To comply with state and federal regulations, including 10 NYCRR, Subpart 5-1.47 subpart (b), the City of Troy Department of Public Utilities is issuing this notice describing elevated lead levels that were tested in a small number of homes. The City of Troy Department of Public Utilities is required to collect thirty (30) samples for lead each year from homes within the City. The regulations require that 90% of the samples are below the action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb) for lead. This is referred to as the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile. In 2021, four (4) of the 30 samples collected exceeded the action level for lead. As a result, our 90<sup>th</sup> percentile was 18 ppb. Enclosed, please find the Public Notice required by the New York State Department of Health.

While Troy's water mains do not contain lead, the water service line running from the water main to your home may be made of lead, especially if your house was built before 1940. In addition, lead can also leach into water inside the home from lead solder, corroding brass or chrome plated fixtures with lead solder. Enclosed is a "Question and Answer" page on lead in drinking water.

For your convenience, a webpage has been set up on the City of Troy website to provide information about lead service lines and to help determine if your water service line may be made of lead. To access the website, please visit, [www.troyny.gov/lead](http://www.troyny.gov/lead).

Through this website, we are trying to collect information on all water service lines that might be made of lead in order to create an inventory and develop a replacement plan for the lead service lines. The webpage consists of an informational section that you can complete to help assist us in the inventory process.

If you have any other questions regarding the lead sampling procedure, please contact the Public Utilities Laboratory at (518) 237-0343.

Sincerely,

Chris Wheland

Superintendent, Public Utilities

## Questions and Answers Regarding Lead in Water

### **Q1: Why am I receiving this notice?**

The City of Troy Department of Public Utilities found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and children 6 years and younger.

### **Q2: Where does lead come from and how does it get into the water?**

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 exposure 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."

The City of Troy does not have any lead in its source water. When water is in contact with service lines or household plumbing that contains lead for several hours, the lead may enter drinking water.

### **Q3: How do I remove lead from my water?**

***Run your water to flush out lead:*** Run water for 1-3 minutes or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking, if it hasn't been used for several hours. This flushes lead-containing water from the pipes.

***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.

***Use bottled water or use a water filter.*** If your home is served by a lead service line, and/or if lead containing plumbing materials are found to be in your home, you may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or visit <http://www.nsf.org/consumer-resources/what-is-nsf-certification/faucets-plumbing-certification/lead-older-homes>, for a consumer guide of approved water filters. 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.

### **Q4: What is the city doing to protect me from lead in my water?**

The Department of Public Utilities provides corrosion control treatment that reduces the amount of lead that can dissolve in your household plumbing. This treatment includes adding lime to increase the pH of the water and lessen the corrosivity of the water. As a result of this action level exceedance, the City of Troy Department of Public Utilities is required to review the adequacy of this treatment as well as collect additional samples for lead, copper, and other compounds that help us determine how well our treatment is working.

### **Q5: Will the City of Troy be required to collect more samples?**

Yes. The City of Troy will be required to collect sixty (60) samples for lead every 6 months between January and June of 2022. Future monitoring will be determined based on the results of these samples.

### **Q6: Can I get my water sampled?**

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. For guidance on determining if your pipes are lead, please go to [www.troyny.gov/dpu/lead](http://www.troyny.gov/dpu/lead). Call us at 518-237-0343 to find out how to get your water tested for lead.

If your home meets certain requirements you may qualify to have your home included in our lead sampling plan. If qualified and chosen to become part of the sampling plan, it requires a sample to be taken from the cold tap water after no water use for 6 hours. Samples are taken by homeowners with the sample bottles that are dropped off and then picked up by the Water Department during normal operating hours of 8:00am – 4:00 pm.

## **Q7: What do I do if I have a lead service line?**

The Department of Public Utilities is in the process of obtaining information from residents about the service line material. This information will be used to inventory the amount of lead service lines and support the development of a plan to replace these service lines in the future. By replacing the service lines the exposure of lead through consumption of water will be drastically reduced. If you are unsure about your service line material or would like to add your service line to our inventory for investigation or possible replacement, please go to [www.troyny.gov/dpu/lead](http://www.troyny.gov/dpu/lead). The city is responsible for water mains and service lines up to and including the curb stop (water shutoff) in the street. The city is not responsible for the service line from the curb stop (water shutoff) to the house and the plumbing in the house.

## **Q8: Are the communities that purchased water from Troy affected?**

The Department of Public Utilities is not aware of lead action level exceedances in any communities that purchase water from the City of Troy. If you have questions about lead these communities, please contact your water supplier or the Rensselaer County Department of Health at 518-270-2626.

---

**This notice is brought to you by the City of Troy, Department of Public Utilities**

**State Water System ID# NY4100050**

**Date: November 30, 2021**

### **Important Information About Lead In Your Drinking Water**

The City of Troy Department of Public Utilities found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and children 6 years and younger. Please read this notice closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

### **Health Effects of Lead**

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

### **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 exposure include lead-contaminated dust or soil, and some plumbing materials. In addition, lead can be found in a number of consumer products, including certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics. Other sources include exposure in the work place (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 collecting 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.

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."

The City of Troy does not have any lead in its source water or water mains in the street. When water is in contact with service lines or household plumbing that contains lead for several hours, the lead may enter drinking water.

## Steps You Can Take To Reduce Your Exposure To Lead In Your Water

1. ***Run your water to flush out lead.*** Run water for 1-3 minutes or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking, if it hasn't been used for several hours. This flushes lead-containing water from the pipes.
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 into 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 percent 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 percent lead on a weighted average. Visit the National Sanitatiereon Foundation website at: [http://www.nsf.org/newsroom\\_pdf/Lead\\_free\\_certification\\_marks.pdf](http://www.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, and/or if lead containing plumbing materials are found to be in your home, you may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or visit <http://www.nsf.org/consumer-resources/what-is-nsf-certification/faucets-plumbing-certification/lead-older-homes>, for a consumer guide of approved water filters. 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. For guidance on determining if your pipes are lead, please go to [www.troyny.gov/dpu/lead](http://www.troyny.gov/dpu/lead). Call us at 518-237-0343 to find out how to get your water tested for lead.

### Should your child 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 at 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 local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead.

### What Happened? What is Being Done?

The City of Troy Department of Public Utilities discovered elevated lead levels through routine testing of residents' homes when results were received on October 12, 2021. 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 exposure include lead-contaminated dust or soil, and some plumbing materials. In addition, lead can be found in a number of consumer products, including certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics.

The Department of Public Utilities provides corrosion control treatment that reduces the amount of lead that can dissolve in your household plumbing. This treatment includes adding lime to increase the pH of the water and lessen the corrosivity of the water. As a result of this action level exceedance, the City of Troy Department of Public Utilities is required to review the adequacy of this treatment as well as collect sixty (60) samples for lead every 6 months.

The Department of Public Utilities is in the process of obtaining information from residents about the service line material. This information will be used to inventory the amount of lead service lines and support the development of a plan to replace these service lines in the future. By replacing the service lines the exposure of lead through consumption of water will be drastically reduced. If you are unsure about your service line material or would like to add your service line to our inventory for investigation or possible replacement please go to [www.troyny.gov/dpu/lead](http://www.troyny.gov/dpu/lead). The city is responsible for water mains and service lines up to and including the curb stop (water shutoff) in the street. The city is not responsible for the service line from the curb stop (water shutoff) to the house and the plumbing in the house.

If your home meets certain requirements you may qualify to have your home included in our lead sampling plan. If qualified and chosen to become part of the sampling plan, it requires a sample to be taken from the cold tap water after no water use for 6 hours. Samples are taken by homeowners with the sample bottles that are dropped off and then picked up by the Water Department during normal operating hours of 8:00am – 4:00 pm.

The Department of Public Utilities is not aware of lead action level exceedances in any communities that purchase water from the City of Troy. If you have questions about lead in communities that purchase drinking water from the City of Troy, please contact your water supplier or the Rensselaer County Department of Health at 518-270-2626.

### **For More Information**

Call us at 518-237-0343 or visit our website at [www.troyny.gov/dpu/lead](http://www.troyny.gov/dpu/lead). For more information on lead in drinking water, contact your Rensselaer County Health Department at 518-270-2626, 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.state.ny.us](mailto:bpwsp@health.state.ny.us). For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead), or call the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD.