

Protect Yourself from Lead:

LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

The City of Oneida Water Department is concerned about lead in your drinking water. Although most homes have none or very low levels of lead, some homes with Lead Service lines can have elevated levels of lead. Results of the 2018 Lead Testing for Oneida Area Water System can be viewed.

Federal Law requires water suppliers to notify their customers about the risks of Lead. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Oneida is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. The City of Oneida Water Office has sample bottles available for lead testing at a \$25.00 fee.

Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

HEALTH EFFECTS OF LEAD

Lead is a common, natural, and often useful metal found throughout the environment in lead based paint, air, soil, household dust, food, certain types of pottery porcelain and pewter, and water. Lead can pose a significant risk to your health if too much of it enters your body. Lead builds up in the body over many years and can cause damage to the brain, red blood cells, and kidneys. The greatest risk is to young children and pregnant women. Amounts of lead that won't hurt adults can slow down normal mental and physical development of growing bodies of children. In addition, a child at play often comes into contact with sources of lead contamination like dirt and dust that rarely affect an adult. If a child puts dirty fingers into his mouth (as most children do), some lead may be absorbed into the child's system. It is important to wash children's hands and toys often, and to try to make sure they only put food into their mouths.

LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like rivers and lakes. Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and household

plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass and chrome plated brass faucets, and in some cases, pipes made of lead that connect your house to the water main (service lines).

In 1986, Congress banned the use of lead solder containing greater than 0.2% lead and restricted the lead content of faucets, pipes, and other plumbing materials to 8.0%. When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into your drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning or later in the afternoon after returning from work or school can contain fairly high levels of lead.

Additional information of How to Reduce Lead in Drinking Water can be found [Here](#).

How to Identify if you have a Lead Service.

Find out what the City has listed for your service material visit: [Service line lookup Tool](#). (link to service line lookup tool)

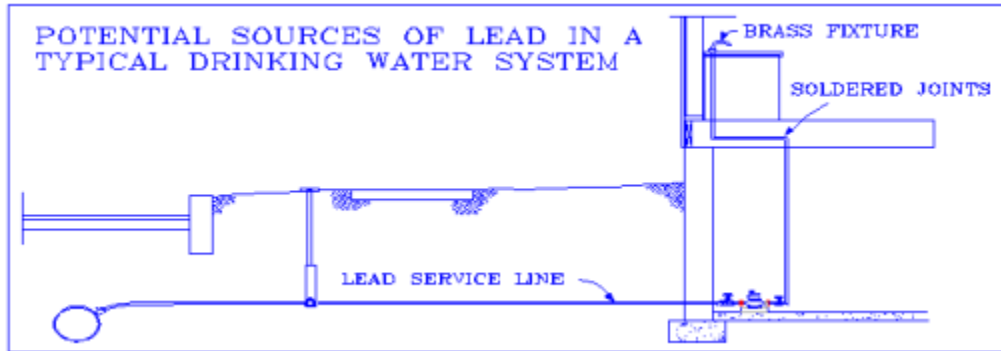
HOW DO I FIND OUT IF I HAVE A LEAD SERVICE?

You may call the office and we'll check our records to determine what type of service is listed or you can check online with our [Service Line Lookup Tool](#).

Check the pipes in your basement. A lead service is usually a dull gray in color. Lead pipes usually have a ball or bulge in the neck of the pipe. A copper service is shiny like a penny. Although most homes have none or very low levels of lead, some homes with Lead Service lines can have elevated levels of lead. Results of the 2018 Lead Testing for Oneida Area Water System can be viewed.

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