Quality Drinking Water

Answers to common questions about water in Grand Ledge

FACTS ABOUT: GRAND LEDGE WATER

The City of Grand Ledge is committed to providing high quality drinking water that meets stringent state and federal standards.

237 MILLION GALLONS
In 2015, the City supplied 237 million gallons of drinking water to customers.

3,610 CUSTOMERS
The City provides high quality drinking water to over 3,610 homes and businesses.

47 MILES
The City maintains over 47 miles of pipe that deliver drinking water to customers, enough pipe to stretch from Grand Ledge to Jackson!

3 WATER TOWERS
Two 155-foot high water towers and one ground storage tank together store 1.45 million gallons of water, serving all water customers.

250 FOOT WELLS
The City utilizes 4 wells, drilled more than 250-feet deep into bedrock of the Saginaw Formation, the underground aquifer that underlies the entire mid-Michigan area.

WWW.CITYOFGRANDLEDGE.COM
The City of Grand Ledge is committed to providing high quality drinking water that meets stringent state and federal standards. Highly trained employees routinely monitor the water utilities and collect drinking water samples that are tested at a minimum of two separate state-certified laboratories each month.

In addition, the City produces an annual water quality report documenting how the state and federal standards are met. To obtain a copy of the most recent water quality report visit www.cityofgrandledge.com or call 517-627-2149.

**If for any reason your water does not meet health and safety regulations, you will be notified.**

### Looks, Tastes, and Smells

**Why does my tap water look cloudy?**

Occasionally, tiny air bubbles in tap water cause a cloudy appearance. Air dissolves into water when pressurized which occurs in the groundwater basin and in the water pipes that deliver water to your tap.

**Is it OK to drink the water when it looks cloudy?** The bubbles are harmless and pose no health risk. The air bubbles will dissipate if you let the water sit in a glass for a few minutes.
Why are there particles in my water?
The City’s drinking water comes from a vast underground aquifer. The wells that pump the water from the aquifer into the delivery system are designed to filter out naturally occurring sediments. These particles typically settle in large water pipes and tanks, but sometimes make it through the faucet.

What if the amount of particles increases? Repairs to water pipes and the use of fire hydrants (for fighting fires) can stir up the sediments resting in the pipe and cause a temporary increase in sediments. When this happens, allowing the sediment to settle and then flushing your faucets should remove it.

What affects the taste of my water?
The taste of drinking water is affected by its mineral content as well as the presence of chlorine, which is used to protect against potential bacterial contamination.

Sometimes plumbing can cause a metallic flavor, especially if water has been sitting in pipes unused for several days. Taste, however, does not indicate a higher or lower degree of water quality.
Why does the tap water smell funny sometimes?

When your water tastes or smells funny, the problem may be in the water or it may not. Odors might actually be coming from your sink drain where bacteria grow on hair, soap, food, and other things that get trapped. Gases in the drain that smell get stirred up when water pours into the pipe. Odor can also come from bacteria growing in devices such as water heaters.

Below is a list of the most common odd smells coming from water and how to minimize them.

**A faint chlorine smell**
A small amount of chlorine is added to meet drinking water regulations. It is a disinfectant that is used to provide continuous protection against possible microbial contamination. Regulations limit the amount of chlorine added to tap water so that the water is safe to drink. A slight smell or taste of chlorine is normal.

**TIP:** An easy way to reduce the chlorine smell is to let water sit in a glass for a few minutes. Then, put the water in a covered container and chill in the refrigerator. Cold water tastes and smells better than water at room temperature.

**Rotten eggs/sulfur smell**
This smell can occur under some conditions when sulfate is present in the water supply. Circumstances that may contribute to this odor are improperly maintained water heaters or lack of water circulation within a residence during warmer months.

**TIP:** If the odor is only present in hot water, then the odor may be a result of sulfur-residing bacteria growing in the water heater tank. This common issue can be caused from magnesium rods in the water tank that are designed to corrode instead of the inner wall of the tank. The reaction that comes from the corroding magnesium causes an odor (rotten eggs). This issue may be addressed by routine use, increasing the water heater’s temperature, or having the water heater serviced by a licensed professional.
Why does my tap water leave spots on my glasses and sometimes limit the flow of water from my showerhead and faucets?

Several types of minerals can be found in tap water. Minerals containing calcium and magnesium are common in local groundwater supplies and are responsible for the white spots observed when tap water is allowed to dry on household surfaces. While these spots may be unwelcome, these naturally occurring minerals in your tap water provide a protective internal coating deemed optimum for controlling corrosion of your home’s water pipes and plumbing fixtures.

The most common mineral deposits are lime, rust, and calcium. Mineral deposits that are allowed to accumulate over time on household surfaces can become more problematic to remove. Routine household maintenance such as wiping water droplets from surfaces before evaporation occurs can help prevent mineral deposits.

**Rust** comes from deposits of iron, in one compound or another that have oxidized. Iron can be present in groundwater, or may be leeching into water from other sources. Rust may also be a result of an older water heater that contains iron. Rust can stain sinks, basins, showers, and clothes with an orange residue from the dissolved, oxidized iron particles.

**Calcium** combined with magnesium cause the hard white spots on dishes and bath fixtures. These minerals mixed with dirt, oils, and soap also cause soap scum.

**TIP:** To remove spots caused by mineral build up, fill your coffee pot or tea kettle with white vinegar and let it sit overnight. This usually helps to remove the spots. Rinse thoroughly before using. You can also soak your showerhead in a bowl filled with white vinegar. There are some store products you can use to prevent spotting when glasses are washed and allowed to air dry.

**Lime** deposits form when the tap water is heated in appliances such as coffee pots and water heaters.

All drinking water provided by the City of Grand Ledge meets state and federal drinking water quality standards.
Is my tap water hard?
The level of hardness in tap water is determined by the amount of calcium and magnesium in the water, both of which are common minerals found in the City’s groundwater supply. Most City water customers receive water with moderate hardness.

Is hard water safe to drink? The City of Grand Ledge tests water 16 times each month to ensure the water is safe to drink. (While hard water can require additional cleaning steps, these naturally occurring minerals in your tap water provide protective internal coating deemed optimum for controlling corrosion of your home’s water pipes and plumbing fixtures.)

I’ve heard there is lead in the City’s water, is that true?
Lead has not been detected in the City’s source water. While lead has not been detected in the City’s source water, there have been instances where lead was detected through testing individual customer taps. The City has been testing an average of 20 sites at the highest risk for lead, as determined by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), every one to three years since 1992. In all instances, these tests have been found in compliance with water quality standards, including lead levels that have not reached above the Federal Action Level of 15 parts per billion (ppb).

Lead testing. As indicated in the City’s most recent Water Quality Report, the reported lead level range is less than 3 and up to 10 (<3-10) ppb. The range of <3-10 ppb is based on samples obtained from 22 locations within the City determined to be of highest risk for lead. Samples indicated: 9 locations (41%) were less than 3 ppb and therefore less than the level of detection, and; 13 locations (59%) were between 3 and 10 ppb. No samples exceeded the Federal Action Level of 15 ppb.

Where does the City test our water?
The City’s water system pulls ground water from four different wells that are 250-feet below ground. The water is tested before it travels into the public water towers and water main. For sampling data and additional information on the City’s water quality, please visit www.cityofgrandledge.com to read the most recent Water Quality Report or stop by City Hall, open Monday – Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm, for a printed copy.
How do I know if I should have my water tested for lead?
The City is responsible for supplying high quality, safe drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components for individual homeowners. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children.

TIP: 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.

While lead has not been detected in the City’s source water, if property owners are concerned about lead in their drinking water, the City recommends the following resources for additional information and home testing options:

- To request a sample water testing bottle and instructions contact, the MDEQ Drinking Water Laboratory, [www.michigan.gov/deq](http://www.michigan.gov/deq) or call 517-335-8184
  - MDEQ charges $18 for each drinking water lead test
- For questions, contact The Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 or at [http://www.epa.gov/your-drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-hotline](http://www.epa.gov/your-drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-hotline)
- For additional information on lead, visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s information included at the end of this document or visit their website, [https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/tips/water.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/tips/water.htm).

NOTE: While lead in drinking water is a hot topic, the most common threat of lead exposure still remains in the residual lead-based paint that was used in many homes built prior to 1978, the year lead paint was banned. Especially in older housing stock, lead dust can be released by friction from opening and closing windows and doors that may have been painted with lead-based paint. If you are concerned about the possibility of lead-based paint in your home, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention provides additional information and testing resources at [http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/tips.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/tips.htm).
Does the City of Grand Ledge make money from paid water bills?
As a public water provider, the City of Grand Ledge can only charge customers for the costs associated with providing water service, which means it cannot earn a profit. The City provides water and wastewater collection for more than 3,610 customers across approximately 4 square miles.

Why does the City charge so much for water?
The City of Grand Ledge is dedicated to setting water and wastewater rates that treat customers fairly and reflect the true cost of service while protecting the City’s financial stability. Recent water and wastewater rate increases reflect the necessary adjustments needed to ensure the City provides the operation and maintenance required for the water and wastewater systems. Adequate funding levels are critical to the delivery of a safe and reliable supply of water. Additional factors that relate to rate charges are listed below:

- **Rising treatment costs.** Increasingly stringent drinking water regulations have made it necessary for many municipal water suppliers to invest in costly new treatment technologies, adding to the cost of providing water. Future water quality regulations will only increase testing and treatment costs.

- **Aging water infrastructure.** The City’s water utility comprises nearly 47 miles of pipe utilizing four wells drilled 250-feet below ground. Much of this utility was built decades ago. From 2010-2016, the City has invested $9.6 million in upgrades and maintenance to the water and wastewater utility.

- **Increasing energy costs.** It takes significant electricity to pump, treat, and deliver water. The City paid over $200,000 in water and wastewater related energy costs in Fiscal Year 2016 (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016).
Don’t my property taxes pay for water costs?
For every $1.00 paid toward property taxes, the City of Grand Ledge receives approximately $0.25 if the taxpayer lives in the City or approximately $0.18 if the taxpayer owns property in the City. The balance of taxes paid are appropriated to other entities. (See graphics below.) The tax allocation could not support a user based utility such as the City’s water and wastewater that has operational costs and user fees dependent on use. Further, the City utilizes an Enterprise Fund to allocate funding for water and wastewater utilities. An Enterprise Fund establishes fees and charges that are designed to recover its costs, including capital costs.

The vast majority of municipalities charge customers fixed and variable rate water/wastewater fees to cover costs associated with adequately operating water and wastewater utilities.
I think there is something wrong with my water meter. What should I do?
It is important for water customers to understand how their water meter works. The graphics below indicate a few features of typical water meters, both current and new, that are utilized in the City. If you feel your meter is not operating as it should, please contact the Utilities Billing Department at 517-627-2149. Inspections can be scheduled for a $50 charge.

What is the difference between a fixed rate and a variable rate?
Fixed rates are designed to recover unchanging costs associated with the operation and maintenance water and wastewater utilities. Variable rate calculations are based on the amount of water and wastewater used.
What do the abbreviations on my water and sewer bill mean?
The abbreviations on the water and sewer bills are listed below.

PB = Previous Balance on Bill
WA = Water Usage
SE = Sewage Disposal
FS = Fixed Sewer Rate
FW = Fixed Water Rate

Further explanation for the water and sewer bill codes are provided in the graphic below.

How can I better understand my water and sewer bill?

The graphic below provides explanation for each section of the water and sewer bill. If you have additional questions, contact the Utilities Billing Department at 517-627-2149.

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**FY19 Rates**
(July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Codes</th>
<th>FY19 Charge Amount</th>
<th>Reason for Charge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>RESIDENT</strong></td>
<td><strong>NON-RESIDENT</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PB = Previous Balance</td>
<td>Previous Balance,</td>
<td>This is any amount unpaid from a prior bill including penalty and interest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>on Bill</td>
<td>if any</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WA = Water Usage</td>
<td>First 4,000 gallons</td>
<td>This is a variable two-tiered rate based on the amount of water used. The amount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$4.82 per 1,000 gal</td>
<td>collected offsets the operation, maintenance, and capital improvements of the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4,000 gallons+</td>
<td>water utility.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$6.54 per 1,000 gal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE = Sewage Disposal</td>
<td>$8.86/per 1,000</td>
<td>This is a variable rate based on the amount of wastewater disposed. The amount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>gallons</td>
<td>collected offsets the operation, maintenance, and capital improvements of the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>wastewater utility.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS = Fixed Sewer Rate</td>
<td>$8.14</td>
<td>This is a non-variable amount collected to offset the operation, maintenance, and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>capital improvements of the wastewater utility.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FW = Fixed Water Rate</td>
<td>$12.21</td>
<td>This is a non-variable amount collected to offset the operation, maintenance, and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$24.42</td>
<td>capital improvements of the water utility.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Water - Frequently Asked Questions – November 2018**

**FY19 Rates**

(July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Address</th>
<th>Address where water and sewer readings are taken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cycle</td>
<td>Office use only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section</td>
<td>Office use only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sequence No</td>
<td>Office use only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billing Date</td>
<td>The date the bill is mailed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After</td>
<td>Due date is always the 25th of the month. Late fees apply if payment received after the 25th.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount Due</td>
<td>The amount due for water and sewer charges for this property</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pay This Late AmT</td>
<td>This is the current amount that is due if the bill is paid late</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Curr Read**: This is the current reading from the water meter as of the last day of the billing ("A" = Actual Reading, "E" = Estimated Reading.)
- **Prev Read**: This is the last reading from the water meter (previously "Curr Read") on last water bill ("A" = Actual Reading, "E" = Estimated Reading.)
- **Usage**: This reflects gallons of water used for this billing period as calculated by subtracting Curr Read from Prev Read.
- **Amount**: This is the amount of each billing code item

www.cityofgrandledge.com
How does the City determine the amount of my water and sewer bill? Why is there a two-tiered water rate?

**WATER**

(WA = Water Usage). The City utilizes a two-tiered rate to calculate water charges for customers. The first rate is $4.82 per 1,000 gallons up to the first 4,000 gallons. The second rate is higher and is charged at $6.54 per 1,000 gallons over 4,000 gallons. Having two-tiers incentivizes customers to monitor their water usage and try to keep near the first tiered rate, thus minimizing the total water bill.

(FW = Fixed Water Rate). The City charges a fixed rate to all water customers regardless of how much water is used.

**SEWER**

(SE = Sewer Disposal). The City charges a standard rate of $8.86 per 1,000 gallons of sewage that is removed from customer’s property.

(FS = Fixed Sewer Rate). The City charges a fixed rate to all sewer customers regardless of how much sewage that is removed from the customer’s property.

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**Calculating Your Water/Sewer Bill**

FY19 (July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019)

**RESIDENT WATER USAGE RATE:**
- $4.82 per 1,000 gallons for the first 4,000 gallons
- $6.54 per 1,000 gallons for gallons over 4,000

**SEWER USAGE RATE:**
- $8.14 per 1,000 gallons used

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**Examples of Calculations**

**WATER USAGE – Calculating 6,000 Gallons**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PB</td>
<td>Previous Balance</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WA</td>
<td>Water Usage</td>
<td>$32.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>Sewage Disposal</td>
<td>$53.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS</td>
<td>Fixed Sewer Rate</td>
<td>$8.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FW</td>
<td>Fixed Water Rate</td>
<td>$12.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Bill</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$105.87</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SEWER USAGE – Calculating 6,000 Gallons**

<table>
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<th>Code</th>
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www.cityofgrandledge.com
Should I buy bottled water?
Some people believe that bottled water is safer and more pure than tap water. Water purity is determined by the amount of elements found in the water and by the level of treatment performed. Both bottled and tap water are considered safe when drinking water standards are met. When the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets a new standard for tap water, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is required to establish the same new standard for bottled water.

How much money can I save by drinking tap water?
Some brands of bottled water use tap water from other areas and are a much more expensive option than your own tap water. Water that is bottled and sold can cost up to a thousand times more per gallon than tap water. On average, a City water customer receives more than 3,200 glasses of tap water (or 200+gallons) for approximately $1.00.

Do I need to purchase a filtered water treatment device to make my tap water safe?
Drinking water provided by the City meets all federal and state quality standards. Water filters may change the taste of tap water, but they are not necessary to ensure water safety.

Do I need a water softener?
While the drinking water provided by the City meets all federal and state quality standards, it is hard water. For customers who are looking to utilize “softer” water, a home water softener can be a viable option. Water softeners do require regular maintenance and have added installation costs and regular fees associated with their use.

It is recommended that property owners check with a local water conditioning expert or the Water Quality Association, www.wqa.org, to find the best product for their needs.
For More Information

Grand Ledge City Hall

310 Greenwood Street, Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Utilities Billing Department: 517-627-2149
How does lead get into my tap water?

Measures taken during the last two decades have greatly reduced exposures to lead in tap water. These measures include actions taken under the requirements of the 1986 and 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act (http://www.epa.gov/sdwa) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA’s) Lead and Copper Rule (http://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/lead-and-copper-rule).

Even so, lead still can be found in some metal water taps, interior water pipes, or pipes connecting a house to the main water pipe in the street. Lead found in tap water usually comes from the corrosion of older fixtures or from the solder that connects pipes. When water sits in leaded pipes for several hours, lead can leach into the water supply.

How do I know if my tap water is contaminated with lead?

The only way to know whether your tap water contains lead is to have it tested. You cannot see, taste, or smell lead in drinking water. Therefore, you must ask your water provider whether your water has lead in it. For homes served by public water systems, data on lead in tap water may be available on the Internet from your local water authority. If your water provider does not post this information, you should call and find out.

Does a high lead level in my tap water cause health effects?

High levels of lead in tap water can cause health effects if the lead in the water enters the bloodstream and causes an elevated blood lead level.

Most studies show that exposure to lead-contaminated water alone would not be likely to elevate blood lead levels in most adults, even exposure to water with a lead content close to the EPA action level for lead of 15 parts per billion (ppb). Risk will vary, however, depending on the individual, the circumstances, and the amount of water consumed. For example, infants who drink formula prepared with lead-contaminated water may be at a higher risk because of the large volume of water they consume relative to their body size.
What can I do to reduce or eliminate lead in my tap water?

If your tap water contains lead at levels exceeding EPA’s action level of 15 ppb, you should take action to minimize your exposure to the lead in the water.

You should begin by asking your water authority these questions:

1. Does my water have lead in it above EPA’s action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb)?
   - If the answer is no, no action is needed.
   - If the answer is yes, also ask the next question:

2. Does the service pipe at the street (header pipe) have lead in it?

   This information is very important. It determines which of the next two actions (A or B) you should follow to protect your household’s health.

   **A)** If the pipe in the street (header pipe) DOES NOT have lead, the lead in your tap water may be coming from fixtures, pipes, or elsewhere inside your home.

   Until you eliminate the source, you should take the following steps any time you wish to use tap water for drinking or cooking, especially when the water has been off and sitting in the pipes for more than 6 hours:

   a. **Before** using any tap water for drinking or cooking, flush your water system by running the kitchen tap (or any other tap you take drinking or cooking water from) on **COLD** for 1–2 minutes;

   b. Then, fill a clean container(s) with water from this tap. This water will be suitable for drinking, cooking, preparation of baby formula, or other consumption. To conserve water, collect multiple containers of water at once (after you have fully flushed the water from the tap as described).

   **B)** If the pipe at the street (header pipe) DOES contain lead, lead in the tap water may be coming from that pipe or connected pipes (it may also be coming from sources inside your home).

   Until the lead source is eliminated, you should take the following steps any time you wish to use tap water for drinking or cooking, especially when the water has been off and sitting in the pipes for more than 6 hours. Please note that additional flushing is necessary:

   a. **Before** using any tap water for drinking or cooking, run high-volume taps (such as your shower) on **COLD** for 5 minutes or more;

   b. Then, run the kitchen tap on **COLD** for 1–2 additional minutes;
c. Fill a clean container(s) with water from this tap. This water will be suitable for drinking, cooking, preparation of baby formula, or other consumption. To conserve water, collect multiple containers of water at once (after you have fully flushed the water from the tap as described).

3. In all situations, drink or cook only with water that comes out of the tap cold. Water that comes out of the tap warm or hot can contain much higher levels of lead. Boiling this water will NOT reduce the amount of lead in your water.

4. You can also reduce or eliminate your exposure to lead in drinking water by consuming only bottled water or water from a filtration system that has been certified by an independent testing organization to reduce or eliminate lead. See resources below.

5. Children and pregnant women are especially vulnerable to the effects of lead exposure. Therefore, for homes with children or pregnant women and with water lead levels exceeding EPA’s action level of 15 ppb, CDC recommends using bottled water or water from a filtration system that has been certified by an independent testing organization to reduce or eliminate lead for cooking, drinking, and baby formula preparation. Because most bottled water does not contain fluoride, a fluoride supplement may be necessary.

Also, some bottled waters have not been tested and may not be appropriate for consumption. Contact independent testing organizations that certify bottled water. See resources below.

6. Make sure that repairs to copper pipes do not use lead solder.

Advice for lead safe water practices after plumbing work in housing with lead water lines or lead solder.

These practices include

1. Testing water after plumbing work in older housing. Please contact your state lead program for information about water testing in your area.
2. Inspecting the aerator on the end of the faucet and removing any debris such as metal particles.
3. Flushing water lines before using the water for drinking or cooking.

If you own your home, you may also consider full replacement of lead water lines by removing the private lines running from the water meter into your home. This precaution has not been adequately studied, however, because the data available to CDC included too few homes having had full replacement of lead water lines. Contact your water authority for information about replacing water service lines.
If my water has high lead levels, is it safe to take a bath or shower?
Yes. Bathing and showering should be safe for you and your children, even if the water contains lead over EPA’s action level. Human skin does not absorb lead in water.

This information applies to most situations and to a large majority of the population, but individual circumstances may vary. Some situations, such as cases involving highly corrosive water, may require additional recommendations or more stringent actions. Your local water authority is always your first source for testing and identifying lead contamination in your tap water. Many public water authorities have websites that include data on drinking water quality, including results of lead testing. Links to such data can be found on the EPA website: [http://www.epa.gov/ccc](http://www.epa.gov/ccc).

Resources
Please visit the following sites for more information:

General:

**Addendum:** After release of the *MMWR* article titled "Blood Lead Levels in Residents of Homes with Elevated Lead in Tap Water -- District of Columbia, 2004," some reports have suggested erroneously that CDC determined that lead in residential tap water at concentrations as high as 300 parts per billion is ‘safe.’ CDC reiterates the key message from the 2004 article: because no safe blood level has been identified for young children, all sources of lead exposure for children should be controlled or eliminated. Lead concentrations in drinking water should be below the EPA action level of 15 parts per billion.

- **Water Fluoridation:** [CDC - Community Water Fluoridation](http://www.cdc.gov) fact sheets, frequently asked questions, and publications.

**Bottled Water and Water Filters:**

- **NSF International,** a nonprofit organization that certifies bottled water and water filters. Consumer Affairs Office toll-free hotline: 1-800-673-8010.
- **International Bottled Water Association,** the trade association that represents the bottled water industry. Information Hotline: 1-800-WATER-11.