



THREE RIVERS
WATERKEEPER®



Is Your Drinking Water Safe from Lead?

The recent lead water crisis in Flint, Michigan showed the nation the very real dangers of lead poisoning. Unfortunately, Pittsburgh has lead exposure levels more than twice as high as those of Flint, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Health. While lead paint in old buildings is a major culprit, lead drinking water pipes are still common here. And due to aging infrastructure, lead levels in our water have been going up since 2001.

Recently, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) cited PWSA for changing a corrosion control agent without DEP approval. Changes like this can cause lead to leach from pipes into the water. As a result, PWSA was required to conduct additional testing that found 17% of tested homes exceeded the federal action level for lead. Now, PWSA is required to take conduct additional testing, create an inventory of lead service line pipes, and develop a plan to replace those pipes.

PWSA has promised customers that they can receive FREE lead testing kits and that they will replace PWSA-owned lead service line pipes for FREE.

We encourage all Pittsburgh-area residents to get your water tested for lead. Here's how:

1. Contact PWSA to request your FREE lead water testing kit at: 412-782-7554 or servicelines@pgh2o.com – provide your name, address, phone # and specify if you live in an apartment and any special instructions for where to leave the test kit
2. When you contact PWSA ask about finding out if you have a lead service line.
3. Let us know when you order your kit and we'll follow up in a few weeks to ask about your results. You can fill out the form on the back or online at: bit.ly/water456

Additional tips for protecting your family from lead in drinking water:

- Use cold water for drinking, cooking and preparing infant formula. Lead dissolves more easily in hot water.
- Flush your taps by running the cold water for 30-60 seconds before using it.
- If your water exceeds the EPA's lead action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb) and you haven't used your water for six hours, run the cold water for 1-2 minutes to flush the system.
- Pregnant women and children should avoid using water that exceeds lead levels of 15 ppb.
- If you know you have a lead service line and you haven't used your water for six hours, you should run the water on cold for 5 minutes or more.

For more info on lead in our drinking water and efforts to ensure our water is safe, visit: <http://threeriverswaterkeeper.org/threats-and-issues/>

Lead Water Testing Survey

Please take minute to request your lead testing kit from PWSA and fill out this survey so we can track and compile results to ensure PWSA is following through with their commitments.

Return the survey to either Three Rivers Waterkeeper or Homewood Children's Village.

You can also fill it out online at: bit.ly/water456

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Best way to contact (pick one): phone email mail

Who is your water authority? (find this on your water bill):

If you have PWSA:

Date you requested your lead testing kit from PWSA:

Date they said it would arrive by:

Did you ask about finding out if your service line is lead? Yes No

If yes, what did they tell you?

How was your interaction with PWSA?

Any Water Authority:

Would you be interested in helping out on the lead campaign in other ways? Yes No

If yes, anything in particular you'd be interested in helping with?

___Events ___Research ___Outreach ___Other: