



MANITOWOC PUBLIC UTILITIES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – DRINKING WATER NOTICE:

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT POSSIBLE LEAD IN MANITOWOC DRINKING WATER

Manitowoc, WI (April 11, 2018) – Lead testing completed by Manitowoc Public Utilities (MPU) has found lead levels in some homes above the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) action limit. MPU continuously addresses this health concern and is committed to informing and educating its customers about lead.

MPU began conducting routine monitoring for lead in drinking water in 1992. Historically, the lead levels have been below the EPA action limit of 15 parts per billion (ppb), or 0.015 milligrams per liter (mg/L).

MPU’s source water, water mains, and finished drinking water do not contain lead. When water is in contact with pipes (or service lines) and plumbing containing lead for several hours, the lead may enter drinking water. Homes built before 1950 are more likely to have lead pipes, and homes built prior to 1984 could have lead solder. The following are in progress by MPU to address lead in drinking water:

- A corrosion control program is in operation to reduce lead impacts. This is being re-evaluated to further optimize its operation.
- Uni-directional water distribution flushing program has been started to remove minerals and sediment from water mains.
- Developing a program to encourage homeowners to replace their lead service lines.

There are approximately 5,200 lead service lines of the 15,500 water services in the City of Manitowoc. A map of homes with potential lead service lines in the city can be found on our website at www.mpu.org/lead. All water services in the city are owned by the property owner from the water main to the home.

Information on MPU’s lead program is available on the utility website and will be included in your bill.

There are several actions customers can take to address lead in drinking water:

Immediate Actions

If your home is served with a lead service line:

- Let the water run at least 3-5 minutes each morning or if unused for 6 hours, until the water runs cold
- Do not cook with, make baby formula, or drink water from a hot water tap.

- Periodically remove and rinse out the debris from the aerator.
- Consider purchasing bottled water or a water filtration device that is NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for 99% removal of lead.

Long Term Actions

If your home is served with a lead service line, participate in the MPU Lead Service Line Replacement program.

- With MPU's guidance the customer can identify if they have a lead service. Please contact MPU at 920 686-4314.
- As owner of the water service from water main to home, consider replacing the lead service line using a licensed plumber. In 2018, MPU is offering a reimbursement program for a portion of the costs of the replacement of the lead service if certain requirements are met through funding by the WDNR. Information can be found at: www.mpu.org/lead.

If too much lead enters your body from drinking water or other sources, it can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and children six years old and younger. Lead 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. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Low levels of lead can affect adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure more than healthy adults. Lead is also stored in the bones and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, a child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development. Lead can also be transmitted through breast milk.

Experts (Environmental Protection Agency and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) agree there is no known safe level of lead in a child's blood. EPA estimates that 10-20 percent of human exposure to lead may come from drinking water. Other sources of lead include deteriorated lead paint (homes built before 1978), contaminated soils and dust.

Please visit www.mpu.org/lead to find out how to get your water tested for lead or for more information on steps the Utility is taking to address the lead action level exceedance.

Water quality test data for Manitowoc Public Utilities can be found on Wisconsin DNR website at dnr.wi.gov under public water system ID 43603648.

If you have questions about lead in drinking water, customers can visit the Manitowoc Public Utilities website at www.mpu.org/lead. If you have questions about lead testing or the health effects related to lead in drinking water, contact the Manitowoc County Health Department at (920) 683-4155.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

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