

Do I need a water filter?

In Milwaukee, our water is treated to reduce the risk of lead getting into our drinking water, but some older homes still have water pipes containing lead that bring water into their homes, or pipes made of lead inside their homes. To reduce the risk of lead in drinking water, use a filter that is certified to remove lead. Home filtration systems are the most thorough way to reduce or eliminate lead in drinking water. Be sure to look for products certified under NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for the removal of lead, and follow all manufacturer's instructions on installation and maintenance.



1. Do you have a lead service line?

When lead is found in drinking water, it is usually because the water flows through pipes or plumbing made with lead. The lead service line, which is the pipe that brings water to your home from the water main under the street, could be made of lead. Inside your home, lead pipes or old brass fixtures may contain lead. When water sits in these pipes, lead can get into the drinking water. Find out if you have a lead service line by calling Milwaukee Water Works at (414) 286-2830.

2. Are there small children, pregnant or breastfeeding women, or women who may become pregnant?

Small children, especially children under the age of 6, absorb lead more easily than adults. Lead can also be passed from a pregnant mother to her unborn child, or through breastmilk.

If you answered "yes" to both questions above, use a drinking water filter that is certified to remove lead.



Keep it Lead-Safe, Milwaukee!

SAFE PAINT • SAFE WATER • SAFE KIDS

- The only way to know if your child has been exposed to lead is to have a lead blood test.
- If you are pregnant or have a child under age 6, talk to your doctor about testing.
- All Milwaukee children should be tested three times before the age of 3. Some children may need to be tested up to age 6.

Water Filter Information

Drinking water filters that are certified to remove lead will be labeled with "NSF/ANSI Standard 53."

Find examples of filters at milwaukee.gov/health.

The City of Milwaukee Health Department also recommends that the following use a certified drinking water filter for lead removal if living in the city of Milwaukee (with or without a lead service line):

- Infants who are bottle fed
- Children with reported elevated blood lead levels greater than 20 µg/dL
- State of Wisconsin licensed or certified child care facilities



RESOURCES

City of Milwaukee Health Department 414-286-5987
National Lead Information Center Hotline 1-800-424-LEAD (5323)
Milwaukee Lead Asbestos Information Center 414-481-9070

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
milwaukee.gov/health or LeadSafeMKE.com

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