



INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF GARDEN CITY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
351 STEWART AVENUE
GARDEN CITY, N.Y. 11530-4528

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As you may be aware, there has been a lot of discussion throughout the Village on the topic of lead in the drinking water. Recently, the Village was informed that a homeowner was diagnosed with an elevated lead blood level and promptly notified their engineering consultant and the Nassau County Department of Health (NCDH). The Village immediately had the wells and points of entry to the system sampled for lead. **The sampling demonstrated that the water entering the distribution system was non-detect for lead.** The NCDH was also notified by the resident, and they performed an investigation of the residence for lead exposure, part of which was sampling the water for lead. The result of the water sample was above the New York State Action Level of 15 µg/l. The home has a privately owned lead service line connection to the public water main.

Lead can enter drinking water when plumbing materials that contain lead corrode. The most common sources of lead in drinking water are lead pipes, faucets, and fixtures. In homes with lead pipes that connect the home to the water main, also known as lead services lines, these pipes are typically the most significant source of lead in the water. Lead pipes are more likely to be found in older developments.

A 2008 American Water Works Association/Water Research Foundation Study, based on a national survey of utility Lead and Copper compliance reporting, suggested that the % of lead contribution to a typical home served by a lead water service was as follows¹:

Lead Service line	50-75%
Premise Piping	20-35%
Faucets	1-3%

The following are Important Steps You Can Take to Reduce Lead in Drinking Water:

- **Have your water tested.** New York State Department of Health has a free lead testing pilot program. Please go to the New York State Department of Health Website: https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/lead/free_lead_testing_pilot_program

Please note that this program has limited capacity and therefore, you may choose to use a private laboratory.

If your water has tested at or above the current action level of 15µg/l the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) recommends that you should either utilize an approved filter or use New York State Certified (NYSDOH Certified) bottled water for drinking and cooking. A NYSDOH Certification can be seen on the bottle, or you can check the following website:

https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/bulk_bottle/bottled.htm →

- **Use your filter properly.**

If you use a filter, make sure you use a filter certified to remove lead (NSF 53 certified). Read the directions to learn how to properly install and use your cartridge and when to replace it. Using the cartridge after it has expired can make it less effective at removing



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¹ *Contribution of Service Line and Plumbing Fixtures to Lead and Copper Rule Compliance Issues.* Sandvig, Kwan, Kirmeyerm et. al. *AWWA Research Foundation.* 2008.



NSF.ORG

lead and may even cause lead build-up to enter the water. Do not run hot water through the filter. You may also contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or www.nsf.org/Certified/Lead_content for information on performance standards for water filters.

- **Learn if you have a lead service line.**
- Contact a licensed plumber to determine if the pipe that connects your home to the water main (called a service line) is made from lead. If you are unsure of the material composition of your service line, you may want to consider using a filter or NYSDOH Certified bottled water for drinking and cooking.
- **Clean your aerator.**
Regularly clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator). Sediment, debris, and lead particles can collect in your aerator. If lead particles are caught in the aerator, lead can get into your water.

Please visit the following EPA websites for more information:

Lead exposure in general:

<https://www.epa.gov/lead>

Specifically for lead in drinking water:

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>

Please visit the Village website at <https://www.gardencityny.net> for updates and further information. You may also contact the Village at 516-465-4020 if you have any questions.



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