



LEAD: THE FACTS

What you need to know in East Grand Rapids

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WHAT WAS LEAD USED FOR IN MY HOME OR BUSINESS?

Lead is a naturally occurring metal that was used regularly in a number of industrial capacities for most of the 20th century. It was used as a component of paint, piping (including drinking water service lines), solder and brass.

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WHEN WERE LEAD SERVICES INSTALLED IN THE DRINKING WATER SYSTEM?

According to the Michigan Rural Water Association, lead services were installed into the 1930's when they were phased out. Because some contractors and plumbers had excess inventories, it is possible that lead services were installed in both municipal and residential water line services up to the 1960's.

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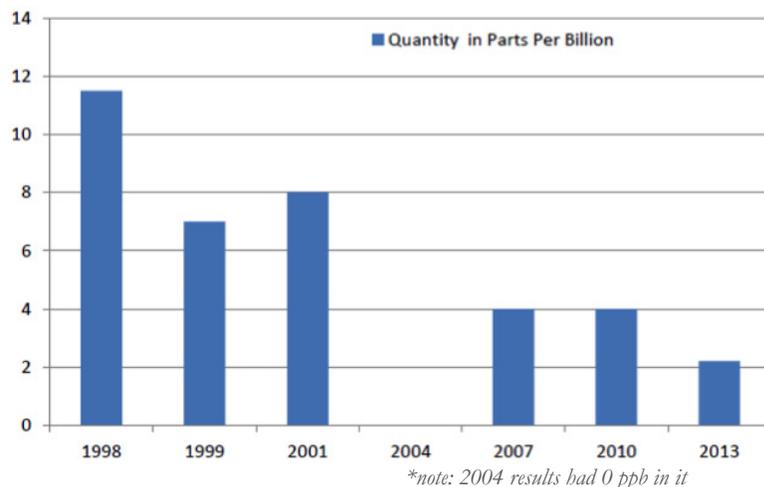
ARE WATER MAINS MADE OF LEAD?

No. Water mains in East consist of cast and ductile iron.

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WHAT ARE THE LEAD LEVELS IN THE EAST GRAND RAPIDS WATER SYSTEM?

In 1994 the City of Grand Rapids (East's source of drinking water) began treating water with phosphates, an anti-corrosive additive that coats the interior of pipes. This coating creates a barrier that protects pipes from corroding and leaching lead or copper into the water supply. Over time, lead in drinking water has dramatically decreased due to this treatment. The federal maximum limit for drinking water for lead is 15 parts per billion (ppb). In 1998 East Grand Rapids tested at 11.5ppb. After years of treatment with phosphates to coat pipes, the lead tests conducted in 2013 show that lead levels were down to 2.2 ppb.



I'M WORRIED ABOUT LEAD IN MY HOME.

General Lead Concerns

Kent County Health Department, Environmental Health Services: 616.632.6900

For concerns about older homes and lead paint

Healthy Homes Coalition: 616.241.3300

Water Quality Testing

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality:
www.michigan.gov/deq

There are also several private laboratories in the Grand Rapids area that are DEQ certified that can test water samples:

ALS Laboratory Group: 616.399.6070

Prein and Newhof: 616.364.7600

TriMatrix Laboratories: 616.975.4500



Lead service with coated layer from phosphate treatment

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THE CITY TAKES EVERY MEASURE TO ENSURE YOUR WATER IS SAFE!

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ARE RESIDENTS NOTIFIED WHAT'S IN THE DRINKING WATER?

The City mails a consumer confidence report (CCR) every year to property owners. The CCR is sent out in the spring and notes all testing results and parameters for water quality. This can also be found on the East Grand Rapids website.

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WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WATER SERVICES AND WHEN ARE THEY REPLACED?

The City is responsible for water services from the water main to the shut off/curb stop located near the property line. Property owners are responsible for the service from the shut off/curb stop to the home. The City replaces water services if/when there is a leak or when a water main is replaced.

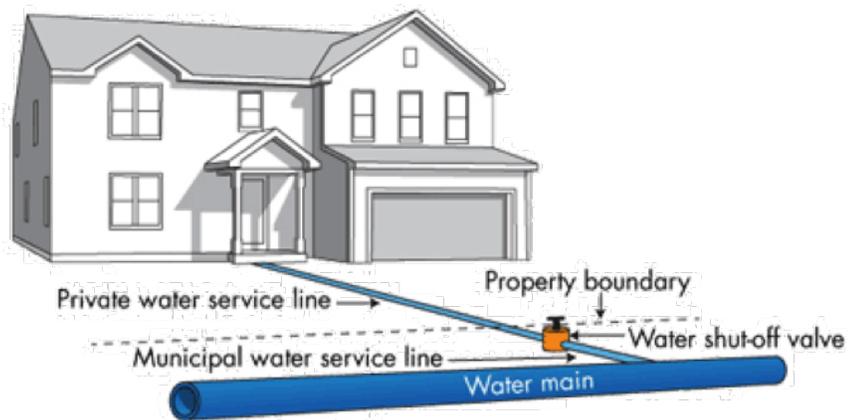
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IF THE LEAD SERVICE IS REPLACED, DOES THIS MEAN THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF LEAD IN MY WATER?

There are three components to lead piping as it relates to a property:

- The City portion of the service from the main to the shut off/curb stop
- The property owner's portion from the shut off/curb stop to the water meter
- The interior plumbing in the home

If any of these portions of plumbing contain lead pipe or lead solder, there is potential for the presence of lead. If the City replaces a lead service through maintenance or a project, it is possible that the property owner's portion of a service is still lead. Lead solder was used until 1988 for internal pipe plumbing. With excess lead solder in the market, it is possible that it could have been used into the early 1990's. Unless all of these areas of plumbing are addressed, it cannot be guaranteed that there is no presence of lead in the drinking water of a home or business. As noted, the coating of pipes with phosphates as part of the water treatment process helps protect against any of these sections of piping that may contain lead.



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WHAT SOURCE OF LEAD CONTAMINATION IS GREATEST WHEN IT COMES TO LEAD AND MY PROPERTY/HOME?

According to the EPA, lead paint and contaminated dust and soil are the leading household sources of lead exposure.