

## Lead Information

Provided by The York Water Company



### What is Lead?

Lead is a naturally occurring element found in small amounts in the earth's crust. While it has some beneficial uses, it can be toxic to humans and animals, causing health effects.

### Who is at Risk?

#### **Children**

Lead is particularly dangerous to children because their growing bodies absorb more lead than adults do, and their brains and nervous systems are more sensitive to the damaging effects of lead. Babies and young children can also be more highly exposed to lead because they often put their hands and other objects that can have lead from dust or soil on them into their mouths. Children may also be exposed to lead by eating and drinking food or water containing lead or from dishes or glasses that contain lead, inhaling lead dust from lead-based paint or lead-contaminated soil or from playing with toys with lead-based paint.

#### **Adults, Including Pregnant Women**

Adults may be exposed to lead by eating and drinking food or water containing lead or from dishes or glasses that contain lead. They may also breathe lead dust by spending time in areas where lead-based paint is deteriorating, and during renovation or repair work that disturbs painted surfaces in older homes and buildings. Working in a job or engaging in hobbies where lead is used, such as making stained glass, can increase exposure as can certain folk remedies containing lead. A pregnant woman's exposure to lead from these sources is of particular concern because it can result in exposure to her developing baby.

### How Lead Gets into Drinking Water

Lead can enter drinking water when plumbing materials that contain lead corrode, especially where the water has high acidity or low mineral content that corrodes pipes and fixtures. 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 service lines, these pipes are typically the most significant source of lead in the water. Lead pipes are more likely to be found in older cities and homes built before 1986. Among homes without lead service lines, the most common problem is with brass or chrome-plated brass faucets and plumbing with lead solder.



### York Water's Program to Reduce Lead

1. Corrosion Control Treatment
  - The water is treated to make it less likely to allow lead to dissolve into the water.
2. Lead Service Line Replacement Program
  - York Water replaces company-owned lead service lines as they are discovered and will replace customer-owned lead service lines at no cost to the customers.
3. Public Education
  - Lead information is provided to homeowners along with flushing guidelines when lead service lines are discovered.
  - We are encouraging our customers to help us identify their service line material and submit that information to us.

#### **Additional Information**

- The York Water Company Website: [www.yorkwater.com](http://www.yorkwater.com)
- The York Water Company Customer Service: 717-845-3601
- United States EPA: [Learn about Lead | US EPA](#)
- Actions to Reduce Lead EPA: [Actions to Reduce Lead Infographic](#)
- Lead in Drinking Water EPA: [Lead in Drinking Water Infographic](#)