



City of Amsterdam
Amsterdam Water Treatment Plant

250 Brookside Avenue • Amsterdam, New York 12010

Randy Gardinier
Chief Plant Operator
Ph: (518) 843-3009
Fax: (518) 843-3087
e-mail: rgardinier@amsterdamny.gov

April 30, 2024

Dear Media Partners:

In response to recent testing and exceedance of the action level for lead in drinking water, I am submitting a press release containing specific language, which is part of a public education plan required by and approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, EPA and New York State Department of Health, NYSDOH.

If you have any questions about the release or its content, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Randy Gardinier

Chief Plant Operator

PRESS RELEASE DRINKING WATER NOTICE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN CITY OF AMSTERDAM DRINKING WATER

Recent drinking water quality monitoring conducted by *the City of Amsterdam Water Treatment Plant* has found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings in the City of Amsterdam. *Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.*

The City of Amsterdam is concerned about the health of their residents because *exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems.*

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. Drinking water is one possible source of lead exposure. The primary source of lead exposure for most children is lead-based paint. Other sources of lead exposure include lead-contaminated dust or soil, and some plumbing materials. In addition, lead can be found in a number of consumer products, including certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics. Other sources include exposure in the workplace (jobs that include house painting, plumbing, renovation, construction, auto repair, welding, electronics repair, jewelry or pottery repair) and exposure from certain hobbies (such as stained glass or pottery, fishing, making or shooting firearms and collecting lead or pewter figurines), as lead can be carried on clothing and shoes. Children's hands or their toys can come into contact with lead in paint, dust and soil. Therefore, washing children's hands and their toys will help reduce the potential for lead exposure from these sources.

This sampling is the first set of samples since undergoing upgrades to our system to optimize our corrosion control. These upgrades, authorized by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), have resulted in a better treatment process and quality of potable water. We are providing regular public education regarding lead in drinking water, conducting water quality parameter monitoring, continuing lead and copper testing and working closely with the NYSDOH regarding the sampling and subsequent measures we will be taking to reduce these levels. The 90th percentile sample for those tested in March of 2024 was 28 parts per billion, 13 parts per billion over the Action Level of 15 parts per billion. For perspective, these 13 parts per billion are equivalent to 13 seconds out of 32 years.

Steps You Can Take To Reduce Your Exposure To Lead In Your Water

- ***Run your water to flush out lead.*** Before drinking, flush your home's pipes for several minutes by running the tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or doing a load of dishes. The amount of time to run the water will depend on whether your home has a lead service line or not, and the length of the lead service line. Residents should contact their water utility for recommendations about flushing times in their community.

- ***Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.*** Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily in hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
- ***Do not boil water to remove lead.*** Boiling water will not reduce lead.
- ***Replace your plumbing fixtures if they are found to contain lead.*** Plumbing materials including brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as “lead-free,” may contribute lead to drinking water. The law previously allowed end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 8 percent lead to be labeled as “lead-free.” As of January 4, 2014, end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, fittings, and valves, must meet the new “lead-free” definition of having no more than 0.25 percent lead on a weighted average. Visit the NSF website at: http://www.nsf.org/newsroom_pdf/Lead_free_certification_marks.pdf to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures and how to identify lead-free certification marks on new fixtures.
- ***Use bottled water or use a water filter.*** If your home is served by a lead service line, and/or if lead-containing plumbing materials are found to be in your home, you may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 1-800-NSF-8010 (800-673-8010) or visit https://info.nsf.org/Certified/dwtu/listings_leadreduction.asp, for a consumer guide of approved water filters. In conjunction with flushing, properly operated filters are highly effective at reducing lead exposure. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions to protect water quality. Any measure you take to reduce your exposure to lead should be continued until the lead source(s) has been minimized or eliminated.

Should you test your water for lead?

If lead-containing plumbing materials are identified in your home, you may want to consider testing your water for lead to determine how much lead is in your drinking water. Call us at 518-843-3009 to find out how to get your water tested for lead. We will continue our sampling at locations with lead service lines. If you have a lead service line and are interested in being added to a waiting list, please contact us. We can also direct you to laboratories which provide lead testing.

Should your child be tested for lead?

New York Public Health Law requires primary health care providers to screen each child for blood lead levels at one and two years of age as part of routine well-child care. In addition, at each routine well-child visit, or at least annually if a child has not had routine well-child visits, primary health care providers assess each child who is at least six months of age, but under six years of age, for high lead exposure. Each child found to be at risk for high lead exposure is screened or referred for lead screening.

If your child has not had routine well-child visits (since the age of one year) and you are concerned about lead exposure to your child, contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead.

There are several actions that the City of Amsterdam is taking to address this lead in drinking water concern. The City of Amsterdam has recently been selected to participate in a new initiative by the United States Environmental Protection Agency called Get The Lead Out. This will help us to further education, identify lead service lines in the community and provide us with assistance in grant submission with a goal to secure further funding to replace additional lead service lines.

Call us at 518-843-3009 or visit our website at <https://www.amsterdamny.gov/183/Water-Quality>. For more information on lead in drinking water, contact your local health department at New York State Department of Health, Herkimer District Office at 315-866-6879, or the New York State Department of Health directly by calling the toll-free number (within New York State) 1-800-458-1158, extension 27650, or out of state at (518) 402-7650, or by email at bpwsp@health.ny.gov. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Website at www.epa.gov/lead, or call the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD.

This press release contains important information about drinking water in the City of Amsterdam. Please contact us at 518-843-3009 for assistance in a version translated to other languages.

Este comunicado de prensa contiene información importante sobre el agua potable en la ciudad de Ámsterdam. Comuníquese con nosotros al 518-843-3009 para obtener ayuda con una versión traducida a otros idiomas.

Niniejszy komunikat prasowy zawiera ważne informacje na temat wody pitnej w Amsterdamie. Skontaktuj się z nami pod numerem 518-843-3009, aby uzyskać pomoc w wersji przetłumaczonej na inne języki.

本新闻稿包含有关阿姆斯特丹市饮用水的重要信息。请致电 518-843-3009 与我们联系，以获得翻译成其他语言的版本的帮助。