CITY OF NEWARK
DIVISION OF WATER AND WASTEWATER

Sources of Lead

Common Sources of lead exposure include:

- Lead based paint (banned since 1978)
- Lead contaminated dust or soil
- Some lead and copper plumbing materials, particularly prior to 1986 and brass fixtures prior to 2014
- Certain types of pottery, pewter, jewelry and cosmetics

Water Quality Information

The USEPA action level for lead in water is 15 parts per billion. In the last testing period, only one out of thirty-one samples was slightly elevated above the 15 parts per billion. The lead gooseneck was replaced and the water was retested and the results were below the detectable limit. For more information about water quality, please see the Consumer Confidence Report (http://www.newarkohio.net/userfiles/files/Water-Wastewater/2017%20CCRWORD%20Final

Home Water Treatment Systems

If you are considering a home water treatment device, research the product to ensure it does what you intend for it to do. These devices have limitations and require periodic maintenance and replacement. Reverse osmosis and distillers can effectively remove lead from drinking water. If using a filter, filters shall meet NSF/ANSI standard 53 for "Drinking Water Treatment Units Health Effect" for the removal of lead. However, all lead reduction products claims should be verified. It should be noted that water softeners have little or no effect on lead reduction.

Resources Available

- Licking County Health Department is available for Lead Testing kits at the expense of the customer. For more information call 740-349-6735
- The USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline provides information about drinking water programs authorized under the Safe Drinking Water Act at 800-426-4791 or epa.gov/safewater/lead.
- To determine if your home has a city lead service line, call the City of Newark Water Office at 740-670-7940
- Ohio EPA has a list of certified labs that test for Lead in water. For more information you can call 614-644-2752 or visit epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/labcert
- Other resources: Drinktap.org and NSF International, 800-NFS-8010or nfs.org.

How Can Lead Affect My Health

All U.S. water operators are required to comply with federal Safe Drinking Water Act regulations including the Lead and Copper Rule. Lead is a common, natural metal found throughout the environment and is used in many commercial products. Exposure to lead can be harmful. A build-up of lead in the body can cause damage to the brain or kidneys or interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of the body. The

greatest risk is to infants, young children and pregnant women.

Your doctors can perform a blood test to determine if you or your child has been exposed to lead.

Is there Lead in City of Newark Water?

- The water that is pulled from the North Fork Licking River has no measurable amount of lead in it.
- The water that is treated and leaves the water treatment plant has no measurable amount of lead in it.

How Can Lead Get in Drinking Water?

Some water service lines, home plumbing (pipes, fittings, solder) and plumbing fixtures contain lead. As water sits in household plumbing over long periods of time, such as overnight or during work and school hours, lead can leach into the water. To prevent lead from getting in to the tap water from home plumbing, please follow guidance from the United States Environmental Protection Agency in the next column (to the right).

Know your plumbing

- Homes built prior to the mid 1950s may still have lead service line, unless the water service has been upgraded.
- Homes built prior to 1987 may have copper pipe with lead solder.
- Plumbing fixtures (like faucets) made prior to 2014 may contain up to 8% lead.

Reducing Corrosion in City Waterlines

The City of Newark has a very effective program that protects pipes from corrosion. Professional Water Operators who are EPA laboratory certified adjust the waters chemistry (pH) and the addition of orthophosphate to the treated water. This step of the treatment process is done to make the water less corrosive and creates a barrier inside of the water lines and separates the water from the pipe wall. This will create a condition that prevents the lead from leaching in.

As required by the EPA a minimum of 30 homes throughout the City of Newark are tested to ensure that corrosion protection program continues to perform well.

Ways to Reduce Lead in Your Water

- As a standard practice, the USEPA recommends the following action to reduce possible lead exposure in drinking water.
- If water has not been used for several hours, run the tap (cold water) until there is a noticeable temperature drop. Then, run water for 30 seconds to 3 minutes before using it for drinking or cooking. This helps flush water that may have contained lead that may have leached into the plumbing.
- Use cold water for cooking, drinking and preparing baby formula.
- Clean your faucets regularly

Water line breaks and repairs in areas with lead service lines may also cause a disruption in your water quality including discoloration and/or a temporary increase in lead levels in your drinking water.

For further assistance please call the City of Newark Water Treatment Facility at 740-349-6765.