

Utility Newsletter Article from Reading Area Water Authority

RAWA Urges Customers to ‘Get the Lead Out’

There is nothing more important to RAWA than providing our customers with safe, reliable, affordable water.

As part of this mission, we want to help keep your household safe from lead. While we treat and test water to make sure that it is lead-free when it leaves the treatment facility and travels through the water mains, some older homes in our community have lead in service lines, household plumbing materials and faucets.

Lead is a powerful toxin that is harmful to human health. Infants, young children and pregnant women are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of lead because it accumulates in the body. There is no identified “safe” level of lead so, wherever possible, households should seek to reduce and eliminate exposure.

Lead can slowly dissolve into the water or break off in tiny particles. To protect our customers, RAWA monitors and adjusts the water’s chemistry to prevent corrosion that may result in lead at the tap. We also sample water for lead at high-risk homes in the community. If no part of your service line or plumbing contains lead, your household is likely not at risk. However, the only way to be certain is to have your water tested by a certified laboratory.

If you do find that your household plumbing is contributing lead to your drinking water, there are several steps you should take to reduce exposure. For instance, if water has not been used for several hours, run the tap to ensure you are getting fresh water from the main. Use only cold water for drinking and cooking, and clean faucet aerators regularly to ensure they are free of lead particles. Finally, if your water has elevated levels of lead, consider purchasing a home filter certified to remove lead. Find out more on filter certification at www.nsf.org. Ultimately, the best way to protect your household is by removing all potential sources of lead.

More information about testing options and other steps you can take to reduce lead exposure are available at our website, www.Readingareawater.com. You can also get this information by calling our Customer Service department at 610-406-6300.

Help us eliminate this threat to your drinking water. Together, let’s get the lead out.