

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Halifax Water Contains High Levels of Lead

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Even though this is **not an emergency**, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely sample water at consumers' taps for lead. In 1979 Halifax completed a filter plant which removes iron and manganese, adjusts pH and disinfects the water from Richmond Park Wells. In 1991 the YMCA Well 3 was put on line with pH adjustment and disinfection. YMCA Well 4 went into service in 2006 with pH adjustment and disinfection. This treatment helps prevent lead in the pipes from dissolving into the water.

What should I do?

Listed below are some steps you can take to reduce your exposure to lead:

- Call us at the number below to find out how to get your water tested for lead.
- Find out whether your pipes contain lead or lead solder.
- Run your water for 15-30 seconds or until it becomes cold before using it for drinking or cooking. This flushes any standing lead from the pipes.
- Don't cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily into hot water.
- **Do not boil your water to remove lead.** Excessive boiling water makes the lead more concentrated - the lead remains when the water evaporates.

What does this mean?

Typically, lead enters water supplies by leaching from lead or brass pipes and plumbing components. New lead pipes and plumbing components containing lead are no longer allowed for this reason; however, many older homes may contain lead pipes. Your water is more likely to contain high lead levels if water pipes in or leading to your home are made of lead or contain lead solder.

Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

What happened?

Historically, Halifax has not had concerns with lead testing. Although the Town of Halifax does not have any lead service distribution lines, some homes may contain lead pipes or lead solder which can contribute to lead in drinking water. Testing showed some homes contain no lead at all.

What is being done?

A consistent balanced pH is optimal for reducing the likelihood of elevated levels of lead occurring. In addition to our routine testing, Halifax will be performing pH testing throughout the system. Also, additional locations will be identified and tested for lead in the upcoming year to broaden our sample base.

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately.

For more information, please contact Keith Swanson at 781-293-1733 or 500 Plymouth Street, Halifax, MA 02338

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.