

Blackman Charter Township conducts periodic testing of tap water in homes for lead and copper. We recently collected samples from 21 homes. The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) evaluates compliance with the Action Level based on the 90th percentile of lead and copper results collected in each round of sampling. The lead 90th percentile for Blackman township's water supply was 132 parts per billion (ppb), which exceeds the Action Level of 15 ppb.

The "Action Level" is not a health-based standard, but it is a level that triggers additional actions including, but not limited to, increased investigative sampling of water quality and educational outreach to customers in accordance with the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act. The health-based standard for lead is 0 ppb; there is no safe level of lead in drinking water.

Because four sites were over the Action Level for Lead, Blackman Charter Township would like to share some ways everyone can reduce their exposure to lead in drinking water. Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water and other sources.

Upon receipt of the elevated results, Blackman Charter Township immediately coordinated with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and EGLE to contact those residents, provide lead education, and conduct extensive follow-up sampling at those locations. All follow up locations were under the Action Level.

Lead can enter drinking water when in contact with pipes, solder, home/building interior plumbing, fittings and fixtures that contain lead. Homes with lead service lines have an increased risk of having high lead levels in drinking water. The more time water has been sitting in your home's pipes, the more lead it may contain. Therefore, if your water has not been used for several hours, run the water before using it for drinking or cooking. This flushes lead-containing water from the pipes. Additional flushing may be required for homes that have been vacant or have a longer service line.

### **How to reduce your exposure to lead in drinking water**


- Run your water to flush out lead-containing water.
  - Run the water for at least two minutes, until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature.
- Consider using a filter to reduce lead in drinking water. Public health recommends that any household with a child or pregnant woman use cold water and a certified lead filter to remove lead from their drinking water, especially when preparing baby formula.
  - Look for filters that are tested and certified to NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for lead reduction.
  - Be sure to maintain and replace the filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to protect water quality.
  - If your household has a child or pregnant woman and are not able to afford the cost of a lead filter, please contact your County Health Department.
- **Do not use hot water** for drinking, preparing food, or cooking, or preparing baby formula.
- **Do not boil** your water as boiling will not reduce the amount of lead in water.
- Clean your faucet aerator to remove trapped debris.

Check whether your home has a lead service line. Blackman Charter Township will soon send a comprehensive public education document about lead in drinking water. We will be collecting 40 sites every six months and reviewing the results to determine if corrective actions are necessary to reduce corrosion in household plumbing.

If you are a Blackman Charter Township water customer and would like information on your service line or information on having your drinking water tested for lead, contact Jack L. Ripstra, the Blackman Township Engineer at 517-789-9898 extension 1.

If you are operating a food establishment such as a store, restaurant, bar, or food manufacturing establishment please visit this page [www.michigan.gov/mdardleadinfo](http://www.michigan.gov/mdardleadinfo) for specific information for food firms.

Additional information regarding lead can be found at Blackman Charter Township's website, [blackmantwp.com](http://blackmantwp.com), or at EGLE websites: [Michigan.gov/egleleadpublicadvisory](http://Michigan.gov/egleleadpublicadvisory) or [Michigan.gov/MILeadSafe](http://Michigan.gov/MILeadSafe).

Is it OK to use lead-containing water to wash my hands?		
<b>Yes!</b> Human skin does not easily absorb lead from water.		
	<p>Even if you have lead in your drinking water, you can wash your hands with water that is not filtered or flushed.</p> <p>Public Health advises residents to wash hands often and for at least 20 seconds with soap and water to help prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).</p>	<p>You can use water that has not been filtered or flushed for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Showering or bathing (avoid swallowing the water)</li> <li>○ Washing hands, dishes, or clothes</li> <li>○ Cleaning</li> </ul>
To learn more please visit, <a href="http://Michigan.gov/coronavirus">Michigan.gov/coronavirus</a> or <a href="http://Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe">Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe</a>		