

# Drinking Water Warning

## LEAD ACTION LEVEL EXCEEDANCE NOTICE

### **Sampling shows elevated lead levels in some homes and/or buildings.**

**Hibbing Public Utilities** found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings. **Hibbing Public Utilities** may also have tested your home or building. If they did, you should receive or may have already received these results. These results are specific to your home/building and may be different from the results taken in other locations. 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.

#### **What is an Action Level?**

The lead action level is a measure of the effectiveness of the corrosion control treatment in water systems. The action level is not a standard for establishing a safe level of lead in a home. To check if corrosion control is working, EPA requires water systems to test for lead at the tap in certain homes, including those with lead service lines. Systems compare sample results from homes to EPA's action level of 0.015 mg/L (15 ppb). If 10 percent of the samples from these homes have water concentrations that are greater than the action level, then the system must perform actions such as public education, adjusting treatment, and lead service line replacement.

#### **What Happened?**

Between **June 2025** and **September 2025**, we collected **29** samples and analyzed them for lead. The results of more than 10 percent of our samples exceeded the action level for lead.

Analyte	EPA Action Level (ppb)	System 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile (ppb)
Lead	15	32
Copper	1300	987

**Hibbing Public Utilities** is focused on protecting the health of every household in our community; however, lead from service lines and lead plumbing and fixtures can dissolve or break off into water and end up at the faucet. We found that both service line material (Hibbing Public Utilities portion of the service line and/or the customer's) as well as customer's internal plumbing that contains lead and/or galvanized material are **potential** sources of lead in your drinking water.

This does not mean that every property that receives drinking water from **Hibbing Public Utilities** has lead in the drinking water. It does mean that you should understand how to reduce your exposure to lead through water. Keep in mind that drinking water is not the only potential source of lead exposure, since lead can be found in air, soil, and paint. For more information on all sources of lead, visit [EPA Lead](https://www.epa.gov/lead) (<https://www.epa.gov/lead>).

#### **Health Effects of Lead**

*\*There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Some of the health effects to infants and children include decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can also result in new or worsened learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy may be at increased risk of these harmful health effects. Adults have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems. Contact your health care provider for more information about your risks.\**

## Steps You Can Take to Reduce Your Exposure to Lead in Your Water

Below are recommended actions that you may take, separately or in combination, if you are concerned about lead in your drinking water. The list also includes where you may find more information and is not intended to be a complete list or to imply that all actions equally reduce lead from drinking water.

- **Purchase and use a certified lead filter** to reduce lead from their drinking water, especially households with a child, pregnant woman, or individual with high blood pressure, or people residing in houses built before 1986. We also recommend making baby formula or cooking with filtered water.
  - Look for filters that are tested and certified to NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for lead reduction and NSF/ANSI Standard 42 for particulate reduction (Class I). Some filter options include a pour-through pitcher or faucet-mount systems. If the label does not specifically mention lead reduction, check the Performance Data Sheet included with the device. Be sure to maintain and replace the filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to protect water quality.
- **Let the water run.** The more time water has been sitting in your home's pipes, the more lead it may contain. Before drinking, flush your home's pipes 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, as well as the length and diameter of the service line and the amount of plumbing in your home
- **Use cold water.** Do not use hot water from the tap for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula as lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Boiling water does not remove lead from water.
- **Clean your aerator.** Regularly remove and clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator). Sediment, debris, and lead particles can collect in your aerator. If lead particles are caught in the aerator, lead can get into your water.
- **Learn what your service line material is.** Contact us at [info@hpuc.com](mailto:info@hpuc.com) or a licensed plumber to determine if the pipe that connects your home to the water main (called a service line) is made from lead, galvanized, or other materials. To find out about what we are doing to replace lead service lines, please visit [www.hpuc.com](http://www.hpuc.com). [Protect Your Tap: A quick check for lead is EPA's on-line step by step guide to learn how to find lead pipes in your home.](#) You can also use the [MDH Lead Inventory Tracking Tool \(https://maps.umn.edu/LSL/\)](https://maps.umn.edu/LSL/) to see if your service line has been documented.
- **Learn about construction in your neighborhood.** Contact us at [info@hpuc.com](mailto:info@hpuc.com) or visit our website at [www.hpuc.com](http://www.hpuc.com) to find out about any construction or maintenance work that could disturb your service line. Construction may cause more lead to be released from a lead service line if present.
- **Have your water tested.** Contact us at [info@hpuc.com](mailto:info@hpuc.com) to have your water tested and to learn more about the lead levels in your drinking water. Contact a [Minnesota Department of Health accredited laboratory](https://eldo.web.health.state.mn.us/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam) (<https://eldo.web.health.state.mn.us/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam>) to purchase a sample container and instructions on how to submit a sample. You can also contact your county or water utility to see if they have any programs to make testing your water easier.
- **Treat your water** or find an alternative source if a test shows your water has high levels of lead after you let the water run. You can learn more about water treatment options at [Home Water Treatment](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/hometreatment.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/hometreatment.html>).

## What is Being Done?

The actions that we are taking are listed below. Many of these actions were in process before the receipt of the lead and copper sampling results to ensure quality drinking water for the customers of HPU.

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- HPU has found 3,314 of the service connections for the system are non-lead from its public side service line inventory
- Securing over \$600,000 in funding for the replacement of known lead service lines (both public and private)
- Prioritizing available funding of \$400,000 for the inventory and identification of unknown service line materials, including some lead service line replacement
- Committed to working towards the securement of an additional \$1 million in funds for lead service line replacement in 2026 and 2027 projects.

In addition, we are working towards a corrosion control application at the water treatment facility to neutralize all lead lines as a part of its 2025 rehabilitation project. We are working to determine which corrosion control treatment strategy would be most effective in addressing this situation. Installation of corrosion control is expected to occur by Spring 2026.

In order to identify lines to remove as a part of future grant projects ***we need your help***. We still have 2,300 private side water lines to inventory and identify. Please call HPU staff at: 218-262-7700 to schedule your inspection. Known lead lines will be added to the database and included in future projects for replacement.

### Understand Blood Lead Testing

In Minnesota, elevated blood lead levels are most associated with lead exposure from lead paint and dust. Water is rarely the cause of elevated blood lead levels. If you have concerns about childhood lead exposure check with your family doctor, pediatrician, or health care provider to determine if a blood test for lead is recommended. State, city, or county departments of health can also provide information about how you can have your child's blood tested for lead or more information about health effects of lead. Routine blood lead tests are covered by insurance and medical assistance programs as a preventative health care service. Contact your child's primary health care provider to request a blood lead test. If your child does not have a primary health care provider or health insurance, there are several resources available.

Visit [\*\*Lead Information for Families – MN Dept. of Health\*\*](#)

<https://www.health.mn.gov/communities/environment/lead/families.html> for more information.

For more information, please contact **Hibbing Public Utilities** at [info@hpuc.com](mailto:info@hpuc.com) or **1902 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. E., Hibbing, MN 55746**. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk from lead in drinking water are available from EPA's website [\*\*Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water\*\*](#) <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>

*\*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.\**

This notice is being sent to you by **Hibbing Public Utilities**. Public Water System Identification Number (1690022):  
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