



STATE OF MICHIGAN

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

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Michigan launches 'Get Ahead of Lead,' a new statewide strategy to protect families most at risk of lead's harmful effects

LANSING, Mich. – Michigan continues to lead the nation in efforts to prevent lead exposure, and as part of that effort the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is announcing its Get Ahead of Lead statewide strategy to identify and take steps to prevent lead exposure from household plumbing.

[To Get Ahead of Lead](#), MDHHS recommends Michigan households use a certified lead-reducing drinking water filter if your home has, or if you are uncertain if it has, one of the following:

- [Lead or galvanized plumbing](#).
- A lead service line carrying water from the street to their residence. Contact your local water supply authority to determine if you have a lead service line.
- Old faucets and fittings that were sold before 2014.

[Residents should use the filter](#) until they can remove sources of household lead plumbing.

"Michigan is committed to protecting families from lead exposure by working with communities across the state to reduce or eliminate all sources of lead in the home," said MDHHS Director Elizabeth Hertel. "By following the recommendations of the Get Ahead of Lead initiative, families can be secure in the knowledge that they have one more layer of protection between themselves and lead."

Get Ahead of Lead includes an education campaign about sources of lead; recommendations for prevention; filter safety net programs including filters for foster care families regardless of water source; and reminder support for communities with current filter programs due to action level exceedances for lead.

The initiative also includes a data-driven strategy designed to identify communities at high risk for elevated blood lead levels, as well as the identification of communities and children most at risk of lead exposure based on age of housing stock, poverty levels and other factors. This approach focuses on deploying additional resources based on community vulnerability. Communities receiving additional assistance are defined as Filter Safety Net Communities and Faucet and Filter Safety Net Communities.

Filter Safety Net Communities have a current or past lead action level exceedance or a 90th percentile over 10 parts per billion lead through Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) monitoring, as of Aug. 1, 2023. Households in these communities with Medicaid enrolled children or pregnant persons can receive the following upon request:

- Filter and replacement cartridges.
- This affects approximately 12,000 households in the following communities: Three Rivers, Dowagiac, Owosso, City of Wayne, Manistee, Eastpointe, Lapeer, Harper Woods and City of Grand Rapids.

Faucet and Filter Safety Net Communities are communities with less than \$15,170 taxable value per capita and that are at 125% of the federal poverty line regardless of LCR status. Households in these communities with Medicaid enrolled children or pregnant persons can receive the following upon request:

- Home visit and visual plumbing assessment.
- Filter and replacement cartridges.
- Single faucet replacement.
- Assistance with sign up for Medicaid Lead Abatement program which will address plumbing.
- This affects approximately 58,232 households in the following communities: Highland Park, Muskegon Heights, Albion, Saginaw, Detroit, Hamtramck, City of Benton Harbor, Flint, Pontiac, Inkster and Ecorse.

Households that previously received filters from MDHHS, but no longer qualify based on Safety Net criteria, will continue to receive replacement reminders.

Other low-income households who do not meet any of the safety net program criteria may seek support for faucet replacement or other lead abatement work from:

- [Weatherization and state emergency services.](#)
- [Lead Prevention Fund Loan Program.](#)
- [State Emergency Relief Program.](#)
- [Emergency Services Fund.](#)
- [Southwest Michigan Community Action Agency.](#)
- [Harbor Habitat for Humanity.](#)
- [U.S. Veterans Affairs.](#)
- [Local Community Action Agency,](#) or call 211 for assistance.

Lead exposure can come from many sources including paint in homes built before 1978, dust, soil, drinking water from older plumbing, jobs or hobbies that involve lead, and some imported goods.

Following are tips that everyone can use to help maintain your home's drinking water quality.

- Keep your water moving by doing everyday activities such as:
 - Running a load of laundry.

- Washing dishes.
 - Taking a shower.
 - Flushing the toilet.
- Clean the aerators on your faucets at least once every six months to remove trapped lead and other particles.
- Run your water until it is cold before using it for drinking, cooking and making baby formula.

It's important for parents and caretakers of children less than 6 years old to talk to their child's health care provider about blood lead testing, especially if there is concern for lead exposure. Lead exposure early in life has been shown to cause problems with learning, behavior, hearing, and growth.

MDHHS operates the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, which coordinates local public health case management for families with a child with an elevated blood lead level. Case management assists families with reducing lead exposure and working with their health care providers. For more information, visit Michigan.gov/lead or call the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at 517-335-8885.

Visit Michigan.gov/GetAheadofLead for more information about the statewide strategy.
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A Consumer Tool for Identifying Point of Use (POU) Drinking Water Filters Certified to Reduce Lead

POINT OF USE FILTERS

Point of use, or POU, drinking water filters are used to remove impurities from water at the point that it is actually being used. Although there are others, the POU filters covered in this document are those used in filtration systems that are attached directly to water faucets, inserted into refrigerators for water dispensers and ice makers, or inserted into water pitchers and bottles.

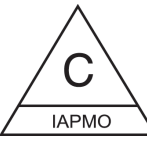


How do I know if a POU filter has been certified to reduce lead?

There are several American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited third-party certification bodies that evaluate POU drinking water filters for lead reduction. Each has a registered trademark that is used on certified products.

Certification bodies require their mark and a statement indicating testing against **NSF/ANSI Standard 53 along with a claim of lead reduction**. We recommend that you also look for filters tested against **NSF/ANSI Standard 42 for particulate reduction (Class I)***.

The table below provides the certification bodies' approved marks and the text that indicates a filter has been certified for lead reduction capabilities. Some filters can be certified by more than one certification body and have multiple certification marks.

Certification Mark(s)	
   <i>Product Listing Directory: info.nsf.org/Certified/DWTU/</i>	  <i>Product Listing Directory: wqa.org/Find-Products#/</i>
   <i>Product Listing Directory: pld.iapmo.org/</i>	 Note: For UL, text must be located underneath the mark. The File No. is a unique product identification number. <i>Product Listing Directory: database.ul.com/cgi-bin/XYV/template/LISEXT/1FRAME/index.html</i>
  Drinking Water NSF/ANSI 42 Drinking Water NSF/ANSI 53 <i>Product Listing Directory: csagroup.org/testing-certification/product-listing/</i>	Text for NSF/ANSI Standards 42 & 53 next to certification marks: • Example text on packaging: <i>Tested and Certified by (name of certification body) against NSF/ANSI Standards 42 and 53 for the claims specified on the Performance Data Sheet.</i> • Some companies may indicate lead removal in the text, or might simply state NSF/ANSI 53 or NSF/ANSI 42 above or below the mark.

Is certification required for POU drinking water filters?

There is no mandatory federal requirement for the use of POU drinking water filters or for testing or third-party certification under the Safe Drinking Water Act. However, consumers can increase their level of confidence by purchasing filters that have been tested by an accredited third-party certification body or bodies for lead reduction and particulate reduction (Class I) capabilities against both NSF/ANSI Standards 42 and 53.

*Although particulate reduction (Class I) is for aesthetic effects, it is being suggested since some particulates can contain lead.

Certification Marks, Standards Text, and Claims of Reduction on Filter Packaging

Certification marks are detailed in the Table on Page 1. Examples of certification marks, NSF/ANSI Standards 42 and 53 text, and claims of lead reduction and particulate reduction (Class I) as found on product packaging are shown below.

Certification Mark on Packaging

Claim of Lead Reduction on Packaging

Claim of Particulate Reduction (Class I) on Packaging

Example Text for Standards 42 & 53 Next to Certification Mark

Certifier's Mark

System Tested and Certified by (name of certification body) against NSF/ANSI Standards 42 and 53 for the reduction of the claims specified on the Performance Data Sheet.

Sistema Probado Certificado por (nom de l'organisme de certification) según las Normas 42 y 53 NSF/ANSI para la reducción de lo afirmado específicamente en la Hoja de Datos Rendimiento.

WHAT WE FILTER OUT

Heavy metals	Mercury, Lead, Cadmium
Taste and Odor	Chlorine
Particulates	Particulate I
Industrial pollutants	Asbestos, Benzene
Pharmaceuticals	Estrone, Ibuprofen, Naproxen
Industrial chemicals	Bisphenol A, Nonyl Phenol

EASY SETUP

With quick setup, you can start using your filter today.

WASH YOUR HANDS BEFORE USE

DISCARD FIRST 3 RITZ

Where are the certification marks and Standards text located?

The certification marks can be found on the filter or on the smallest container in which the filter is packaged. NSF/ANSI Standards 42 and 53 text will be located under or near a certification mark. If lead reduction and particulate reduction (Class I) are not specifically mentioned in the text, information can be found in a table on the packaging, on the performance data sheet located inside the filter packaging or on the manufacturer's website, or in the certifier's online product listing directory (see links in the table on Page 1).

Performance Data Sheet Inside Filter Packaging or on Websites

Claims of lead reduction and particulate reduction (Class I) not included on the filter packaging can typically be found on the performance data sheet located inside the filter box or other packaging (example below), or on the manufacturer's website.

Claim of Lead Reduction

Claim of Particulate Reduction (Class I)

SUBSTANCE	Overall Percent Reduction	Influent Challenge Concentration	U.S. EPA Level/NSF Maximum Permissible Product Water Concentration
NSF/ANSI Standard 53 – Health Effects			
Lead pH 6.5	99.5%	150±15 ppb	10 ppb
Lead pH 8.5	99.6%	150±15 ppb	10 ppb
Mercury pH 6.5	95.5%	6±0.6 ppb	2 ppb
Mercury pH 8.5	95.9%	6±0.6 ppb	2 ppb
Cadmium pH 6.5	97.4%	30±3 ppb	5 ppb
Cadmium pH 8.5	99.2%	30±3 ppb	5 ppb
Benzene	93.5%	15±1.5 ppb	5 ppb
Asbestos	> 99%	55000000±45000000 Fibers/L	99%*
NSF/ANSI Standard 401 – Emerging Compounds/Incidental Contaminants			
Bisphenol A†	95.5%	2000±400 ppt	300 ppt
Estrone†	96.4%	140±28 ppt	20 ppt
Ibuprofen†	94.9%	400±80 ppt	60 ppt
Naproxen†	96.4%	140±28 ppt	20 ppt
Nonyl phenol†	93.5%	1400±280 ppt	200 ppt
NSF/ANSI Standard 42 – Aesthetic Effects			
Chlorine	97.4%	2.0±0.2 ppb	50%*
Particulate Reduction Class I	99.6%	>10000 particles/mL	85%*

* NSF Minimum Percent Reduction Requirement.

† Valid for the following systems: Ultramax Jet Black (OB24), Space Saver (OB21), Amalfi (OB32), Grand Color Series (OB36), Pacifica (OB41), Capri (OB43), Mini Plus (OB44), Marina (OB47), Monterey (OB50), and Wave (OB53).

These systems have been tested according to NSF/ANSI 401 (for applicable systems), 42 and 53 for reduction of the substances listed. The concentration of each of the indicated substances in water entering the systems was reduced to a concentration less than or equal to the permissible limit for water leaving the systems, as specified in NSF/ANSI 401, 42 and 53.

Additional Information

- EPA's Lead in Drinking Water Website: [epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water](https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water)
- Understanding NSF/ANSI Standard 53: [workingpressuremag.com/understanding-nsf-ansi-53/](https://www.workingpressuremag.com/understanding-nsf-ansi-53/)

Questions?

- For questions about a filter: *Contact the product manufacturer or see the product listing directories listed on the first page.*
- For questions about this document: *Send an email to latham.michelle@epa.gov or shah.manthan@epa.gov.*

Check for Lead in Your Home Plumbing

Your home's plumbing and faucets could have lead, which could get into your drinking water.

Plumbing in houses built before 1988 and faucets sold before 2014 are more likely to have lead. Check your plumbing for lead and make an informed decision about how to prevent lead in your drinking water.

Your home may have lead in the plumbing if it has one of the following:



- Lead or galvanized pipes; or
- A lead service line carrying water from the street to their residence; or
- Old faucets and fittings that were sold before 2014.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recommends that all residents across Michigan use a certified lead-reducing drinking water filter if their home has, or if they are uncertain it has, any of the plumbing mentioned above.

To identify the material your pipes are made of, follow these steps:

1

Step 1: Gather what you need.

- A key or coin and a small magnet.
- Known location of the pipes and plumbing in your home.

2

Step 2: Do a scratch and magnet test.

These steps can only help identify the material of the part of the service line inside your home and your interior plumbing. In some cases, the part of the service line outside your property might be owned by the city and could be made from a different material. To know what material connects your service line to the public water supply, contact your local water supply authority.

Lead



Copper



Galvanized Steel



Plastic



Lead pipes:

Scratch with a key— lead pipes will turn a shiny silver color and are easily scratched. Try the magnet— magnets will not stick to lead pipes.

Copper pipes:

Scratch with a key— copper pipes will turn a bright copper when scratched, like a new penny. Try the magnet— magnets will not stick to copper pipes.

Galvanized pipes:

Scratch with a key— galvanized pipes are hard and look dull when scratched. Try the magnet— magnets will stick to galvanized pipes.

Plastic pipes:

Scratch with a key— plastic pipes will sound dull when hit with the key and will not change color when scratched. Try the magnet— magnets will not stick to plastic pipes.

3

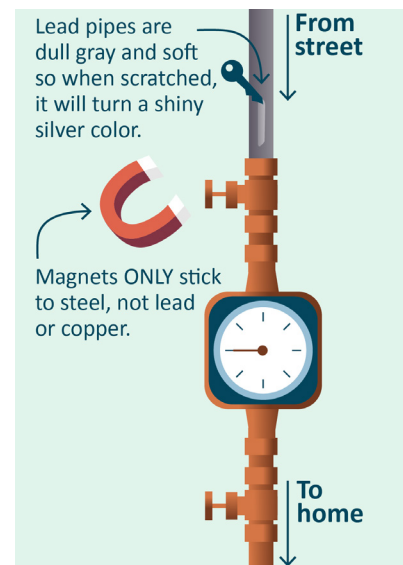
Step 3: Check your service line or well.

If your water comes from a community water supply:

- Locate the pipe coming out of your wall from the street to the home. This is typically found in the basement.
- A service line is only used on homes connected to a community water supply.
- Your interior plumbing is connected to the service line and water meter that goes to the rest of the home.
- Determine the material of your service line by contacting your local municipality.

If your water comes from a private residential well:

- Parts of your well—such as the pump, pipe, or valves—may contain lead. **Call a certified well-driller in your area to help identify the plumbing material used to build your well and the connection to the pressure tank in your basement.**
- Locate the pressure tank and pipes moving water in and out of the tank.
- The pipe moving water to the pressure tank is connected to the submersible pump of your well.
- The interior plumbing of your home starts from the pipe moving water out of the pressure tank to your home.



To determine what material your service line is made from, you can do a scratch test and magnet test on that side of your water meter. To test your home's plumbing, you can do the scratch and magnet test on the plumbing on the other side of your water meter.

If you think your home may have lead in the plumbing



MDHHS recommends these actions to reduce lead:

- **Use a NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for lead reduction and NSF/ANSI Standard 42 for particulates certified lead-reducing filter** for drinking water, cooking, rinsing foods, and mixing baby formula.
- Replace lead-containing faucets, fixtures, and plumbing.

To maintain your drinking water



- **Keep your water moving** by doing everyday activities such as:
 - Taking a shower.
 - Running a load of laundry.
 - Flushing the toilet.
 - Washing dishes.
- **Clean the aerators** on your faucets at least once every six months to remove trapped lead and other particles.
- **Run your water** until it is cold before using it for drinking, cooking and making baby formula.

Get Ahead of Lead

A Statewide Strategy to Protect Those Most at Risk of Lead's Harmful Effects

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Recommendations

MDHHS recommends that all Michigan households use a certified lead-reducing drinking water filter if their home has or if they are uncertain if it has one of the following:

- Lead or galvanized plumbing.
- A lead service line carrying water from the street to their home.
- Old faucets and fittings that were sold before 2014.

Use a filter until you are able to remove sources of household lead plumbing, such as:

- Replace pre-2014 faucets.
- Get a lead inspection and replace needed plumbing.



The statewide “Get Ahead of Lead” strategy includes:

- An education campaign around the sources of lead in household plumbing and the filter recommendation, and,
- Filter safety net assistance for households that may need support to implement this recommendation in communities with a high risk of lead exposure.



To learn more about the statewide “Get Ahead of Lead” strategy use the QR code or visit [Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe/Get-Ahead-of-Lead](https://www.michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe/Get-Ahead-of-Lead).

Check Your Home's Plumbing for Lead



To learn more about checking your home's plumbing, use the QR code or visit <https://www.michigan.gov/mileadsafe/-/media/Project/Webistes/mileadsafe/Educational-resources/Home-Plumbing-Lead-Checklist.pdf>.

How to Select a Filter



Look for filters that are tested and certified to NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for lead reduction and NSF/ANSI Standard 42 for class I particulates. Click the QR code or visit https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2018-12/documents/consumer_tool_for_identifying_drinking_water_filters_certified_to_reduce_lead.pdf to go to the Get Ahead of Lead website to learn more.

Communities at Higher Risk of Lead Exposure

Filter-assistance communities have an increased risk of lead exposure based on a data-driven approach to identify communities with higher percents of children with elevated blood lead levels, older housing stock and poverty. If you live in one of the communities below, visit Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe/Get-Ahead-of-Lead to learn about resources available to you.

Current Filter Safety Net communities:

- Three Rivers.
- Dowagiac.
- Owosso.
- City of Wayne.
- Manistee.
- East Pointe.
- Lapeer.
- Harper Woods.
- Grand Rapids.

Current Faucet and Filter Safety Net communities:

- Albion.
- Benton Harbor.
- Detroit.
- Ecorse.
- Flint.
- Hamtramck.
- Highland Park.
- Inkster.
- Muskegon Heights.
- Pontiac.
- Saginaw.

Households that previously received filters from MDHHS, but no longer qualify based on Safety Net criteria, will continue to receive replacement reminders.

Other low-income households that do not meet the Safety Net program criteria may seek support for faucet replacement or other lead abatement work from:

- Weatherization and state emergency services. For more information, visit NewMiBridges.Michigan.gov.
- Lead Prevention Fund Loan Program. Visit the MISAVES website at MichiganSaves.org/LeadFund or call MISAVES at 517-484-6474 to learn about the loan application process.

Threat of Lead from Drinking Water

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that no safe blood lead level has been identified for young children; all sources of lead exposure for children should be controlled or eliminated. Lead can be found throughout a child's environment including their homes. Homes built before 1978 can contain lead-based paint and dust, which is a well-established cause of exposure to lead. Children can also be exposed to lead in their household drinking water due to corrosion of older water service lines and pipes, faucets, and fittings. This can occur on homes served by a private well or a public water supply.

For More Information

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
1-844-934-1315
Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe/Get-Ahead-of-Lead



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