

**Milltown Borough Utility Department
39 Washington Avenue
Milltown, NJ 08850**

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***POSTAL CUSTOMER
MILLTOWN, NJ 08850***

IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT YOUR WATER

Dear Milltown Utilities Customer,

In July 2016, the Milltown Utility Department received notification from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) that water tests at 3 of the 20 Milltown homes that were participating in the voluntary Lead & Copper Sampling program showed lead concentrations above the action level. The source of the lead in the samples that is fixtures and solder used in household plumbing contained a higher level of lead than is allowable by today's standards. The use of plumbing solder and fixtures with high lead content was banned in 1987.

Milltown Utilities is providing information to customers about the health effects of lead exposure and practical ways to prevent lead exposure. Milltown Utilities is taking this opportunity to provide answers to commonly asked questions and provide more details about the issue and actions being taken.

For customers who are concerned that their home's plumbing may contain fixtures and solder with high lead concentrations, it is recommended that the tap water be run for 15 to 30 seconds prior to use for drinking and cooking, particularly if the water has been allowed to sit unused in the plumbing for an extended period of time.

A public meeting is scheduled for December 5th 6pm at the Borough Hall if you have questions.

COMMON QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

IS THE WATER WHICH WE RECEIVE FROM THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK CONTAMINATED WITH LEAD?

Absolutely not...Results of tests of the water produced at the New Brunswick Water Treatment Plant, as it enters the water mains on its way to our customers, have not shown any results which have exceeded the New Jersey Safe Drinking Water Standards Action Level for lead. The results of their testing dates back to 1993.

WHAT HAPPENED?

During the summer of 2016, the Milltown Utility Department collected 20 lead & copper samples from homes in Milltown that were currently on our DEP approved list. The sampling procedure requires the customer to allow the water to sit undisturbed in their plumbing for 6 hours prior to collecting the sample.

The action level for lead is based on a 90th percentile. This means that 10% of samples collected must not exceed the action level of 15ppb. The 90th percentile in Milltown was 19.59ppb.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Milltown exceeded the action level of 15ppb. This requires Milltown to notify the public and begin the process of Public Education for Lead in Milltown.

WHAT IS THE UTILITY DEPARTMENT DOING?

As per the new EPA/DEP regulations, the Borough has submitted a new Lead & Copper Plan to the DEP with 40 new sampling sites. These sites have been selected based on criteria outlined in the DEP guidelines. 20 alternate sites have been selected & are included in the plan. After the DEP approves the submitted paperwork, we will begin sampling for lead & copper twice a year until the DEP confirms we are in compliance.

WHAT CAN I DO?

If you are concerned your home plumbing may contain lead; you should run your water for at least 15 to 30 seconds prior to your first days use, always cook with cold water and replace your aerators on each faucet every six months.

The following is important information from USEPA about lead in drinking water.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

Milltown Utilities found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings. 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.

Health effects of Lead

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones, and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

Sources of Lead

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. Drinking water is one possible source of lead exposure. The main sources of lead exposure are lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust or soil, and some plumbing materials. In addition, lead can be found in certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics. Other sources include exposure in the work place and exposure from certain hobbies.

Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like rivers and lakes. Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and household plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass and chrome-brass faucets, and in some cases, pipes made of lead that connect houses and buildings to water mains (service lines).

New brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free", may contribute lead to drinking water. The law currently allows end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 0.25 percent lead to be labeled as "lead free". However, prior to January 4, 2014, "lead free" allowed up to 8 percent lead content of the wetted surfaces of plumbing products including those labeled National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certified. Consumers should be aware of this when choosing fixtures and take appropriate precautions.

EPA estimates that up to 20 percent of a person's potential exposure to Lead may come from drinking water. Infants who consume mostly formula mixed with Lead-containing water can receive 40 to 60 percent of their exposure to Lead from drinking water.

When water stands in Lead pipes or plumbing systems containing Lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into your drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning, or later in the afternoon if the water has not been used all day, can contain fairly high levels of Lead.

STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO REDUCE EXPOSURE TO LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

- 1. Run the water to flush out lead.** Let the water run from the tap before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in a faucet has gone unused for more than six hours. The longer the water resides in plumbing the more lead it may contain. Flushing the tap means running the cold-water faucet for about 15-30 seconds. Although toilet flushing or showering flushes water through a portion of the plumbing system, you still need to flush the water in each faucet before using it for drinking or cooking. Flushing tap water is a simple and inexpensive measure you can take to protect your health. It usually uses less than one gallon of water.
- 2. Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap. Hot water can dissolve lead more quickly than cold water. If you need hot water, draw water from the cold tap and then heat it. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
- 3. Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead.
- 4. Look for alternative sources or treatment of water.** You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 1-800-NSF-8010 or www.nsf.org for information on performance standards for water filters. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer.
- 5. Test your water for lead.** Milltown Utilities is re-testing residences involved in its Lead & Copper Program and monitoring a limited number of additional residences. If you are interested in testing your home's water Milltown Utilities can provide a list of certified labs in New Jersey.
- 6. Get your child tested.** Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about lead exposure. Your family doctor or pediatrician can perform a blood test for lead and provide you with information about the health effects of lead.

The steps described above will reduce the Lead concentrations in your drinking water. However, if you are still concerned, you may wish to use bottled water for drinking and cooking.

For more information, call us at **732-828-2100x137** or visit our website at **www.milltownnj.org**. This notice is being sent to you by **Milltown Utilities**, New Jersey Public Water Supply (NJPWS) Identification Number NJ1212001.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at www.epa.gov/lead, call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD or Safe Drinking Water Act hotline at 1-800-426-4791, or contact your health care provider.