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Quality Water Matters

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Hello! I am the Drinking Water Quality Manager at the Ann Arbor Water Treatment plant and I am available to answer your questions about drinking water. One topic of frequent inquiry this month is lead and copper testing.

We completed our tri-annual lead and copper testing in 2020, and no homes in Ann Arbor qualified as tier 1 or tier 2 sampling sites, which represent sites with a higher risk of lead contamination. This is good news for Ann Arbor water customers. This means we have no homes with lead service lines or interior lead plumbing. We sampled tier 3 sites, which are homes with copper plumbing with lead solder installed before 1988. Our tri-annual testing resulted in 90th percentile values of 1 parts per billion (ppb) lead and 0.1 parts per million (ppm) copper. This means that 90% of the samples that we collected contained less than 1 ppb of lead. These values are far lower than the action levels of 15 ppb lead and 1.3 ppm copper.

Customers with detectable levels of lead were provided with [guidance for reducing potential lead exposure from drinking water](#). Since we don't have lead service lines in Ann Arbor, the source of lead and copper is household plumbing (older faucets, fittings, valves sold before 2014 or solder sold before 1987).

Lead requires time to leach out of plumbing materials into tap water, so flushing pipes for 0.5-2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking reduces exposure. Other strategies include using only cold water for drinking and cooking, cleaning aerators, and replacing household plumbing fixtures purchased before 2014 which may contain components that contain lead.

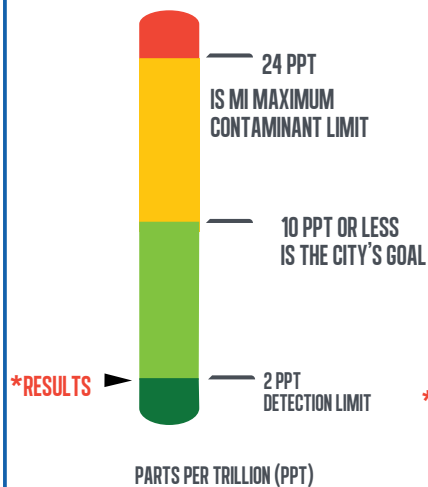
If you would like to get your own water tested, the City of Ann Arbor offers one free lead test

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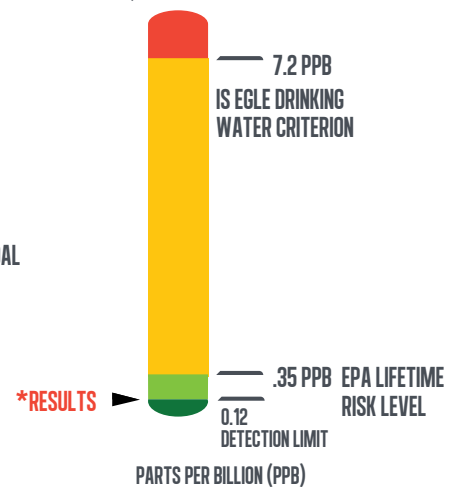
MONTHLY WATER QUALITY DASHBOARD



* PFOS/PFOA



* 1,4-DIOXANE



*1,4-DIOXANE AND PFAS RESULTS ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE FOR NOVEMBER, SO DATA FROM OCTOBER IS PROVIDED.

It's that time of year! Protect your pipes

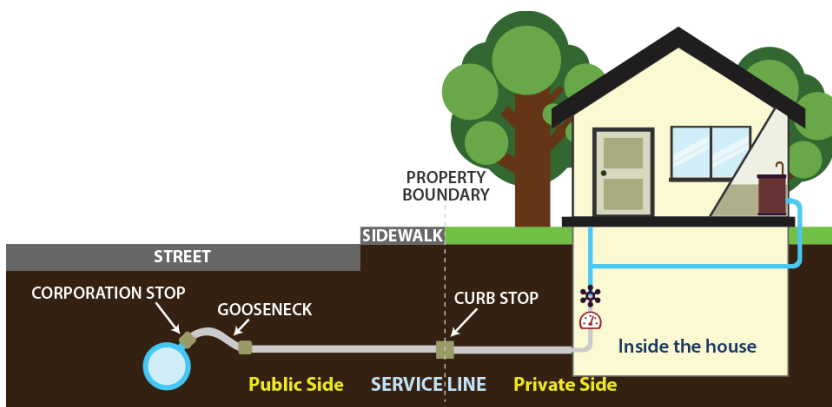


Protect water pipes when the temperature plummets! Check pipes and any water spigots on the outside of your residence during extreme cold spells to prevent them from freezing.

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per household to help keep residents informed about potential lead and copper exposure. Additional tests cost \$25. To sign up for a test, please fill out the online form at www.a2gov.org/leadsample, and you will be contacted when your test kit is ready for pick up at the water treatment plant.

Another ongoing project relating to Michigan's lead and copper rule is our replacement program for galvanized service lines that were historically connected to a lead connector, called a "gooseneck." To learn more about this program, please visit our [lead and copper rule website](#) and our [service line inventory map](#) with status of galvanized service line replacements. If you are waiting for replacement of an eligible service line, please be patient as replacements are being coordinated with water main and road projects to minimize service disruptions.



It is not surprising that Ann Arbor's lead and copper testing programs consistently result in low lead and copper concentrations, considering our lack of lead service lines and our corrosion control strategy. Ann Arbor's drinking water is designed to be scale forming rather than corrosive, which means that a protective layer of scale builds on pipe walls and prevents metals from entering the drinking water. Furthermore, Michigan as a state has been progressively modifying its lead and copper requirements ahead of the federal government's lead and copper rule revisions. Ann Arbor is well positioned for any upcoming changes to lead and copper regulations.

As always, please continue to contact us if you have questions about your drinking water at water@a2gov.org.

Becky Lahr

Becky Lahr, PhD, City of Ann Arbor Drinking Water Quality Manager



December Water Champion

Congratulations to our December Water Champion, **Tarrik Quneibi**. As a recent water quality intern at the Ann Arbor Water Treatment plant, Quneibi presented at the 2021 Engineering Research Symposium at the University of Michigan in November.



The City of Ann Arbor recently installed new particle counters to monitor water quality as it passes through our Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filters at the water treatment

plant and Quneibi worked on tapping into the large dataset for process control. The water industry relies on online turbidity monitors to track water quality after filtration, but particle counter measurements have been shown to be more sensitive.

Quneibi also worked on process optimization projects relating to water softening and ozone disinfection. He is currently finishing up his last semester as an undergraduate in Environmental Engineering at Michigan and when he graduates he plans to continue to work towards a M.S. degree in Environmental Engineering.

Thank you Tarrik for your contributions to quality water!

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

No wipes, gloves or grease in the pipes!

Right now, it is more important than ever to take simple steps to help maintain functionality of private and public plumbing and sewer systems. Wipes, disposable gloves, facial tissues and paper towels should be disposed of properly in the garbage and never flushed down the toilet, as these items create blockages in household pipes and municipal sewer systems. Fats, oil and greases should also never be poured into toilets or down the drain.