PWS ID# NJ0502001

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

The City of Cape May Water Department

For the Year 2024, Results from the Year 2023

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources.

If you are a landlord, you must distribute this Drinking Water Quality Report to every tenant as soon as practicable, but no later than three business days after receipt. Delivery must be done by hand, mail, or email, and by posting the information in a prominent location at the entrance of each rental premises, pursuant to section #3 of NJ P.L. 2021, c.82 (C.58:12A-12.4 et seq.).

Our water source: We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is wells. Our five wells draw groundwater from the Cohansey Aquifer and the Atlantic City 800 Foot Sands. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has completed and issued the Source Water Assessment Report and Summary for this public water system, which is available at WWW.state.nj.us/dep/swap or by contacting NJDEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at (609) 292-5550. You may also contact your public water system to obtain information regarding your water system's Source Water Assessment. Cape May City's water system's source water susceptibility ratings and a list of potential contaminant sources is included.

Vulnerable populations: Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The City of Cape May Water Department routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2023. The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

TEST RESULTS

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Units of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants:						
Barium Test results Yr. 2021	N	0.001	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide Test results Yr. 2021	N	2.8	ppb	200	200	Discharge from steel/metal factories; discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Copper Test results Yr. 2023 Result at 90th Percentile	N	0.13 No samples exceeded the action level.	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead Test results Yr. 2023 Result at 90th Percentile	Y	10.5 6 samples out of 40 exceeded the action level.	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Disinfection By-Products:						
TTHMs Total Trihalomethanes Test results Yr. 2023	N	Range = 11 - 11 Highest detect = 11	ppb	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA5s Total Haloacetic Acids Test results Yr. 2023	N	Range = 2 – 3 Highest detect = 3	ppb	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Regulated Disinfectants	Level Detected	MRDL	MRDLG
Chlorine Test results Yr. 2023	Range = 0.2 – 1.1 ppm Average = 0.6 ppm	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm

Chlorine: Water additive used to control microbes

Sources of Lead in Drinking Water

The City of Cape May is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. Although most lead exposure occurs from inhaling dust or from contaminated soil, or when children eat paint chips, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) estimates that 10 to 20 percent of human exposure to lead may come from lead in drinking water. Infants who consume mostly mixed formula can receive 40 percent to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water. Lead is rarely found in the source of your drinking water but enters tap water through corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and household plumbing materials. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipes, brass, and chrome-brass faucets, and in some cases, service lines made of or lined with lead. New brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free", may still contain a small percentage of lead, and 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. Visit the NSF website at www.nsf.org to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures. Consumers should be aware of this when choosing fixtures and take appropriate precautions. When water stands in lead service lines, 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

For a full list of steps visit: https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/dwc-lead-consumer.html

Run the cold water to flush out lead. Let the water run from the tap before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in the 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. Let the water run from the cold-water tap based on the length of the lead service line and the plumbing configuration in your home. In other words, the larger the home or building and the greater the distance to the water main (in the street), the more water it will take to flush properly. 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.

Use cold, flushed water for cooking and preparing baby formula. Because lead from lead-containing plumbing materials and pipes can dissolve into hot water more easily than cold water, never drink, cook, or prepare beverages including baby formula using hot water from the tap. If you have not had your water sampled or if you know, it is recommended that bottled or filtered water be used for drinking and preparing baby formula. If you need hot water, draw water from the cold tap and then heat it.

Do not boil water to remove lead. Boiling water will not reduce lead; however, it is still safe to wash dishes and do laundry. Lead will not soak into dishware or most clothes.

Use alternative sources or treatment of water. You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or www.nsf.org for information on performance standards for water filters.

Determine if you have interior lead plumbing or solder. If your home/building was constructed prior to 1987, it is important to determine if interior lead solder or lead pipes are present. You can check yourself, hire a licensed plumber, or check with your landlord.

Replace plumbing fixtures and service lines containing lead. Replace brass faucets, fittings, and valves that do not meet the current definition of "lead free" from 2014 (as explained above). Visit the NSF website at www.nsf.org to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures.

Remove and clean aerators/screens on plumbing fixtures. Over time, particles and sediment can collect in the aerator screen. Regularly remove and clean aerators screens located at the tip of faucets and remove any particles.

Test your water for lead. Please call 609-884-9575to find out how to get your water tested for lead. Testing is essential because you cannot see, taste, or smell lead in drinking water**.**

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. New Jersey law requires that children be tested for lead in their blood at both 1 and 2 years of age and before they are 6 years old if they have never been tested before or if they have been exposed to a known source of lead.

Have an electrician check your wiring. If grounding wires from the electrical system are attached to your pipes, corrosion may be greater. Check with a licensed electrician or your local electrical code to determine if your wiring can be grounded elsewhere. DO NOT attempt to change the wiring yourself because improper grounding can cause electrical shock and fire hazards.

Water softeners and reverse osmosis units will remove lead from water but can also make the water more corrosive to lead solder and plumbing by removing certain minerals; therefore, the installation of these treatment units at the point of entry into homes with lead plumbing should only be done under supervision of a qualified water treatment professional.

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. 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. You can find out more about how to get your child tested and how to pay for it at https://www.state.nj.us/health/childhoodlead/testing.shtml.

In July 2021, P.L.2021, Ch.183 (Law) was enacted, requiring all community water systems to replace lead service lines in their service area within 10 years. Under the law, The City of Cape May Water Department is required to notify customers, non-paying consumers, and any off-site owner of a property (e.g., landlord) when it is known they are served by a lead service line*. Our service line inventory is available on our website: www.capemaycity/department/watersewer or upon request.

Potential sources of contamination: The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas projection, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can, also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Definitions:

In the "Test Results" table you may find some terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Non-Detects (ND) - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Maximum Contaminant Level - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal -The "Goal"(MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Action Level – The concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant, below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination

Waivers: The Safe Drinking Water Act regulations allow monitoring waivers to reduce or eliminate the monitoring requirements for asbestos, volatile organic chemicals and synthetic organic chemicals. Our system received monitoring waivers for all of these types of contaminants.

Water Quality: To ensure the continued quality of our water we use a reverse osmosis process to protect against potentially harmful contaminants, lime for Ph adjustment and sodium hypochlorite for disinfection.

The City of Cape May Water Department - PWSID # NJ0502001

The City of Cape May Water Department is a public community water system consisting of 5 wells.

This system's source water comes from the following aquifers: Kirkwood-Cohansey Watertable Aquifer System, Atlantic City 800 Foot Sands Aquifer System.

This system can purchase water from the following water system: Lower Township MUA

Susceptibility Ratings for the City of Cape May Water Department Sources

The table below illustrates the susceptibility ratings for the seven contaminant categories (and radon) for each source in the system. The table provides the number of wells and intakes that rated high (H), medium (M), or low (L) for each contaminant category. For susceptibility ratings of purchased water, refer to the specific water system's source water assessment report.

The seven contaminant categories are defined at the bottom of this page. DEP considered all surface water highly susceptible to pathogens, therefore all intakes received a high rating for the pathogen category. For the purpose of the Source Water Assessment Program, radionuclides are more of a concern for ground water than surface water. As a result, surface water intakes' susceptibility to radionuclides was not determined and they all received a low rating.

If a system is rated highly susceptible for a contaminant category, it does not mean a customer is or will be consuming contaminated drinking water. The rating reflects the potential for contamination of source water, not the existence of contamination. Public water systems are required to monitor for regulated contaminants and to install treatment if any contaminants are detected at frequencies and concentrations above allowable levels. As a result of the assessments, DEP may customize (change existing) monitoring schedules based on the susceptibility ratings.

	Pathogens			**Nutrients**			**Pesticides**			**Volatile Organic Compounds**			**Inorganics**			**Radionuclides**			**Radon**			**Disinfection Byproduct Precursors**		
Sources	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L
Wells - 5			**5**			**5**			**5**			**5**			**5**			**5**			**5**			**5**

Pathogens: Disease-causing organisms such as bacteria and viruses. Common sources are animal and human fecal wastes.

Nutrients: Compounds, minerals and elements that aid growth, that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include nitrogen and phosphorus.

Volatile Organic Compounds: Man-made chemicals used as solvents, degreasers, and gasoline components. Examples include benzene, methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), and vinyl chloride.

Pesticides: Man-made chemicals used to control pests, weeds and fungus. Common sources include land application and manufacturing centers of pesticides. Examples include herbicides such as atrazine, and insecticides such as chlordane.

Inorganics: Mineral-based compounds that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include arsenic, asbestos, copper, lead, and nitrate.

Radionuclides: Radioactive substances that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include radium and uranium.

Radon: Colorless, odorless, cancer-causing gas that occurs naturally in the environment. For more information go to http://www.nj.gov/dep/rpp/radon/index.htm or call (800) 648-0394.

Disinfection Byproduct Precursors: A common source is naturally occurring organic matter in surface water. Disinfection byproducts are formed when the disinfectants (usually chlorine) used to kill pathogens react with dissolved organic material (for example leaves) present in surface water.

For additional Information: If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Robert Cummiskey at 609-884-9575. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled City Council meetings at City Hall, 643 Washington Street. For City Council Meeting dates and times please visit our website at: www.CapeMayCity.com

We at Cape May City Water Department work hard to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. Please call our office if you have questions.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The City of Cape May Water Department Failed to Meet Water Quality Parameter (WQP) Levels of Which You've Been Notified

Our water system violated a drinking water standard in 2021. Although this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did (are doing) to correct this situation.

Our system installed corrosion control treatment to help prevent lead and/or copper in the pipes from dissolving into the water. During the January 1 - June 30, 2021 monitoring period, we failed to consistently meet treatment technique requirements for our corrosion control system. WQP results did not meet the optimal WQP control values set by the State 62 days in the 6-month monitoring period, and the system cannot be outside the values set by the State for nine or more days.

The City of Cape May Water Department is required to monitor Water Quality Parameters at the treatment plant on a biweekly basis. This sampling includes the sampling of pH. PH is not a contaminant; it is a measure of the water's corrosivity. A low pH is corrosive, and a high pH is scale-forming. PH control is important for keeping lead from lead service lines stable and therefore minimizing it leaching into the water and potentially reaching the customer.

The City of Cape May Water Department does not currently have a lead or copper action level exceedance. If you wish to learn more about lead in drinking water, we recommend visiting https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water.

What was done?

The City of Cape May Water Department has made minor operational adjustments to ensure the water entering the distribution system remains within the optimal range.

What should I do?

This situation is not an emergency and you do not need to find other sources of water. However, as indicated above a low pH is more corrosive which can cause lead and/or copper to leach from the service lines and interior plumbing into the water.

We are currently working on our lead service line inventory, if you suspect you have a lead or galvanized service line, please contact us for verification at 609-884-9575.

What does this mean?

Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal physician.

If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water.

For more information, or to learn more about your drinking water please contact Rob Cummiskey at 609-884-9576.

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.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

The City of Cape May found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and children. Contact us at 609-884-9575 to obtain a translated copy of the public education materials or to request assistance in the appropriate language.

The City of Cape May found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings. This means that some water samples collected from customers' taps exceeded the lead action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb) from 1/1/2023-6/30/2023 and this information is required to be sent because City of Cape May has a lead action level exceedance. The action level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. An action level exceedance is determined by measuring the highest concentration of lead in tap water that is exceeded by 10 percent of the sites sampled during a monitoring period (referred to as the "90th percentile"). lf water from the tap does exceed the lead action level, then the water system must take certain steps to correct the problem. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Please read this information closely and in its entirety to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water. Landlords must distribute this information to every tenant as soon as practicable, but no later than three business days after receipt. Delivery must be done by hand, mail, or email, and by posting the information in a prominent location at the entrance of each rental premises, pursuant to section 3 of P.L. 2021, c. 82 (C.58.12A-12.4 et seq.).

Health Effects of Lead

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. lt 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 lQ 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. ln other words, it is the fetus that is at risk because developing fetuses receive lead from the mother's bones. Children and fetuses absorb more lead into their bodies than adults and are more susceptible to its effects on brain development; however, most children with elevated blood lead levels do not exhibit any symptoms, but effects may appear later in life.

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. ln addition, lead can be found in certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, cosmetics, imported spices and other food. Other sources include exposure in the workplace and exposure from certain hobbies like shooting ranges and fishing (lead can be carried on clothing or shoes). Lead is found in some toys, some playground equipment, and some children's metal jewelry. 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 pipes, brass, and chrome-brass faucets, and in some cases, pipes made of or lined with lead. When water remains in contact with lead pipes or plumbing materials containing lead over time, 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, may contain elevated levels of lead.

- Homes and buildings in New Jersey built before 1987 are more likely to have lead pipes and/or lead solder.
- Service lines, which may also contain lead, are the individual pipes that run from the water main in the street to a home or building and consist of two portions. The first portion is the section of the service line from the water main to the curb stop and the second portion is the section from the curb stop to the home. Ownership of the service line varies by water system, but for the City of Cape May, the service line is owned partially by the water system and property owner.
- Brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free", may also contribute lead to drinking water. The law currently allows end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, that contain a maximum of 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 their current fixtures and take appropriate precautions.

EPA estimates that 10 to 20 percent of a person's potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water. lnfants who consume mostly formula mixed with lead-containing water may receive 40 to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water. When there are elevated levels of lead in your water, drinking water is likely to be a more important source of exposure.

Steps You Gan Take to Reduce Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water

1. Find out if you have a lead service line. Residents and customers are encouraged to check their portion of the service line for lead, and we are asking you to contact us at 609-884-9575 if a lead service line is identified so we can update our records. Lead service lines in New Jersey are water supply connections made of, or lined with, a material consisting of lead, and which connects a water main to a building inlet. Lead pigtails, lead goosenecks, and other lead fittings are also considered to be lead service lines along with galvanized service lines. We will be notifying those addresses served by a lead service line according to our records on 8/9/2023 by mail.

2. Replace service lines containing lead. ln New Jersey all lead service lines within our service area must be replaced in full, from the street to home regardless of whether we are exceeding the lead action level. We are required to replace all lead service lines no later than 2031. We have a lead service line replacement plan to meet this requirement. Contact 609-884-9576 to learn more about replacing the lead service line on your property.

3. Find out if you have interior lead plumbing or solder. lf your home/building was constructed prior to 1987, it is important to determine if interior lead solder or lead pipes are present. You can check yourself, hire a licensed plumber, or check with your landlord.

4. Replace plumbing fixtures and service lines containing lead. Replace brass faucets, fittings, and valves that do not meet the current definition of "lead free." The current definition went into effect January 4, 2014; therefore, any "lead free" plumbing materials purchased and/or installed prior to that date should be discarded or replaced. Visit the NSF website at www.nsf.org to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures.

5. Run the cold water to flush out lead. Let the water run from the tap before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in the 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 to 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. lt usually uses less than one gallon of water. For those with lead service lines or until you determine if you are served by one, let the water run from the tap longer based on the length of the lead service line and the plumbing configuration in your home. ln other

words, the larger the home or building and the greater the distance to the water main (in the street), the more water it will take to flush properly.

6. Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula. Because lead from lead-containing plumbing materials and pipes can dissolve into hot water more easily than cold water, never drink, cook, or prepare beverages including baby formula using hot water from the tap. lf you have not had your water sampled or if you know or suspect you have a lead service line, it is recommended that bottled or filtered water be used for drinking and preparing baby formula. lf you need hot water, draw water from the cold tap and then heat it.

7. Do not boil water to remove lead. Boiling water will not reduce lead.

8. Use alternative sources or treatment of water. lf there is confirmed or suspected lead containing materials, such as a lead service line and/or interior lead plumbing or lead solder, in your home or building, you may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF lnternational 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 manufacture's recommendations.

9. Regularly remove and clean aerators/screens on plumbing fixtures. Over time, particles and sediment can collect in the aerator screen. Regularly remove and clean aerators screens located at the tip of faucets and remove any particles.

10. Test your water for lead. Call us at 609-884-9577 to find out how to get your water tested for lead. Testing is essential because you cannot see, taste, or smell lead in drinking water. The Department has low-cost options for this testing available.

11. 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. Wash your children's hands and toys often as they can come into contact with dirt and dust containing lead. New Jersey law requires that children be tested for lead in their blood at both 1 and 2 years of age (12 and 24 months), and before they are 6 years old if they have never been tested before or if they have been exposed to a known source of lead. You can find out more about how to get your child tested and how to pay for it at https://wm,v.state.nj.us/health/childhoodlead/testing.shtml. Children 3 to 5 years of age should also be tested if they have not been tested before. The steps described above will reduce the lead concentrations in your drinking water. However, if a water test indicates that the drinking water coming from your tap contains lead concentrations more than {5 ppb after flushing, or after we have completed our actions to minimize lead levels, then you may want to take the following additional measures:

12. Have an electrician check your wiring. lf grounding wires from the electrical system are attached to your pipes, corrosion may be greater. Check with a licensed electrician or your local electrical code to determine if your wiring can be grounded elsewhere. DO NOT attempt to change the wiring yourself because improper grounding can cause electrical shock and fire hazards.

13. Water softeners and reverse osmosis units will remove lead from water but can also make the water more corrosive to lead solder and plumbing by removing certain minerals; therefore, the installation of these treatment units at the point of entry into homes with lead plumbing should only be done under supervision of a qualified water treatment professional.

What Happened? What Is Being Done?

The City of Cape May has been testing for lead since 1990 and has never had an action level exceedance. We have been proactive in locating and removing lead service lines since 2000. Please visit https://www.capemavcitv.com/departments/WaterSewer for the lead service inventory and additional information.

We are required by New Jersey law, P.L. 2021, c.183, to replace 10% of the lead service lines in the water system every year, on average, and complete our program by July 2031. To date we have replaced 42 of our initial 119 lead service lines. The City of Cape May is continuing both monitoring efforts and public education about lead in drinking water.

For More Information

For more information, call us at 609-884-9576 or visit our website at https:/lwww.capemavcity.com/departments/WaterSewer For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at, http://www.epa.qov/lead, call the National Lead lnformation Center at 800-424-LEAD or Safe Drinking Water Act hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or contact your health care provider.

You can also consult a variety of sources for additional information:

- Your water system can be found by searching "envirofacts" on the EPA's website. You will then proceed to the SDWS (Safe Drinking Water lnformation System) data search for your specific geographic location. https://enviro.epa.qov/
- You can check your water system's analytical results and monitoring requirements (i.e., the frequency of sampling and number of samples) on New Jersey Drinking Water Watch at www.ni.qov/dep/watersupplv/wateru/atch.
- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Division of Water Supply and Geoscience, at (609) 292-2957 or watersupplv@dep.ni.sov, can provide you with further information and helpful links on lead and water systems.

This notice is being sent to you by City of Cape May, New Jersey Public Water System Identification Number (PWSID) 0502001.

**Please share this information with all the other people who consume water provided by City of Cape May, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in nursing homes, schools and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

***Date Notification was distributed 6/29/2023**