

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

The Village of Saranac Lake found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and children 6 years and younger. Please read this notice closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

This notice is brought to you by:
The Village of Saranac Lake, ID# NY1600011
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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 primary source of lead exposure for most children is lead-based paint. Other sources of lead exposure include lead-contaminated dust or soil, and some plumbing materials. In addition, lead can be found in a number of consumer products, including certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics. Other sources

include exposure in the work place (jobs that include house painting, plumbing, renovation, construction, auto repair, welding, electronics repair, jewelry or pottery repair) and exposure from certain hobbies (such as stained glass or pottery, fishing, making or shooting firearms and collecting lead or pewter figurines), as lead can be carried on clothing and shoes. Children's hands or their toys can come into contact with lead in paint, dust and soil. Therefore, washing children's hands and their toys will help reduce the potential for lead exposure from these sources

Plumbing materials, including pipes, 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 8 percent lead to be labeled as "lead free." However, plumbing fixtures labeled National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certified may only have up to 2 percent lead. Consumers should be aware of this when choosing fixtures and take appropriate precautions.

The source of water, the wells serving Saranac Lake do not contain lead. When water is in contact with pipes or service lines or plumbing that contains lead for several hours, the lead may enter drinking water. Homes built before 1986 are more likely to have plumbing containing lead. New homes may also have lead; even "lead-free" plumbing may contain some lead.

Steps You Can Take To Reduce Your Exposure To Lead In Your Water

1. **Run your water to flush out lead.** Run water for 15-30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking, if it hasn't been used for several hours. This flushes lead-containing water from the pipes.
2. **Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily into hot water. 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. **Replace your plumbing fixtures if they are found to contain lead.** Plumbing materials, including pipes, 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 8% lead to be labeled as "lead free." Visit the National Sanitation Foundation Web site at: www.nsf.org/Certified/Lead_content/ to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures.
5. **Use bottled water or use a water filter.** If your home is served by a lead service line, and/or if lead containing plumbing materials are found to be in your home, 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/Certified/Lead_content/ for information on performance standards for water filters. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to protect water quality. Any measure you take to reduce your exposure to lead should be continued until the lead source(s) has been minimized or eliminated.

Should you test your water for lead?

If lead-containing plumbing materials are identified in your home, you may want to consider testing your water for lead to determine how much lead is in your drinking water. Call us at 891-4160 to find out how to get your water tested for lead. There are certified laboratories that will perform this service for a fee.

Should your child be tested for lead?

New York Public Health Law requires primary health care providers to screen each child for blood lead levels at one and two years of age as part of routine well child care. In addition, at each routine well-child visit, or at least annually if a child has not had routine well-child visits, primary health care providers assess each child who is at least six-months of age, but under six years of age, for high lead exposure. Each child found to be at risk for high lead exposure is screened or referred for lead screening.

If your child has not had routine well-child visits (since the age of one year) and you are concerned about lead exposure to your child, contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead.

What Happened? What is Being Done?

We are required to modify our corrosion control program to minimize lead in your drinking water. We started applying a drinking water additive in mid-July, as soon as we were aware of the problem. The new water plant was designed and constructed with the equipment needed to apply the corrosion control additive. We will start lead and copper sampling again in the near future in order to verify that the corrosion control program is effective.

You can determine whether the service line that connects your home or apartment to the water

main is made of lead. The public water system that delivers water to your home should maintain records of the materials located in the distribution system. If they do not have any records concerning your service line, try to contact the plumbing contractor who installed the service line. You usually can identify the plumbing contractor by checking the office that issues or keeps records of the building Village of Saranac Lake Code Enforcement Officer at (518) 891-4150. If the plumbing contractor can't be located, hire a licensed plumber to determine if the service line is made of lead. A licensed plumber can also check to see if your home's plumbing contains lead solder, lead pipes or pipe fittings that contain lead;

If you have a lead service line that connects your dwelling to the water main and it contributes more than 15 parts per billion of lead to your drinking water after our comprehensive treatment program is in place, we are required to replace the line. If the service line is only partially controlled by the Village of Saranac Lake, we are required to replace the portion of the line under our control and we are required to provide you with information on how to replace your portion of the lead service line. We will take a follow-up tap sample within 14 days of the replacement. Acceptable replacement alternatives include copper, HDPE, and plastic pipes.

Have an electrician check your wiring. If grounding wires from the electrical system are attached to your pipes, corrosion may be greater. Check with the 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

We were required to drill wells to replace the McKenzie Pond, an unfiltered source and we

connected to the wells in 2012. We had hoped we wouldn't have to use any corrosion control additive because of the improved raw water quality in the wells. We had 2 satisfactory rounds of lead and copper samples in 2013 but the next round of samples collected in 2014 showed that we need to use a corrosion control additive.

For More Information

Call us at 891-4150 or visit our Web site at <http://www.saranaclakeny.gov/>. For more information on lead in drinking water, contact the New York State Department of Health directly by calling 891-1800. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/lead, or call the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD.

The Village of Saranac Lake started applying the corrosion control additive mid-July, as soon as we were aware of the problem. We have followed all procedures recommended by the NYS Department of Health and the consultant who supplied the additive. We recently collected samples to determine if the corrosion control program is working as expected. We expect to receive the sample results in a couple of weeks. Upon notification of the sample results, the Village of Saranac Lake will post the results and the NYS Department of Health determination of those results on the village website www.saranaclakeny.gov/waterquality