

Tips to Reduce Potential Lead Exposure

At the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department (WASD), protecting public health and ensuring the safety of our community is our top priority. We want to assure customers that Miami-Dade County regulates water chemistry by adding a corrosion inhibitor to ensure lead levels remain well below the federal regulatory limit when water leaves our treatment facility. We are committed to ensuring the health and wellbeing of our community and are working closely with residents that have identified lead in their service line to take steps to ensure your water remains safe.

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Lead and Copper Rule Revisions establish specific monitoring, testing, and reporting parameters to address health risks from lead exposure in drinking water. The Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) further strengthen these regulations. To comply with the LCRI and the LCRI, the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department has developed and continues to refine a service line material inventory.

Drinking water sources do not typically have naturally occurring lead. Instead, certain types of plumbing materials that transport drinking water to homes and businesses can deposit lead into the water. These plumbing materials include older service lines, faucets, and other fixtures. The likelihood of finding lead service lines in our water distribution system is low. Miami-Dade County prohibited the use of lead in water pipe construction in 1976, a decade before a national ban was added to the Safe Drinking Water Act. Yearly water quality reports can be found on the [WASD website](#).

Below are recommended steps you can take if concerned about lead in your drinking water. This is not intended to be a complete list or to imply that all actions equally reduce lead in drinking water.



Run water to flush pipes. If a tap has been unused for several hours, flush the water for several minutes before using it for drinking or cooking. To avoid wasting water, capture and reuse the flushed water for irrigation, cleaning, etc.



Clean aerators. Aerators and/or screens on faucets should be cleaned periodically (every 3-6 months) and more often if there has been a service line replacement (every month for six months). Aerators should be replaced if damaged or worn out.



Use only cold water for cooking, drinking, and baby formula. If hot water is needed, collect cold water after flushing and then heat it up. Boiling water does not reduce or remove lead.



Identify and replace plumbing fixtures containing lead. Brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," may contribute lead to drinking water. Current regulations have established a maximum lead concentration of 0.25 percent for drinking water fixtures. Visit the NSF website at www.nsf.org to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures.



Filter your water. For drinking, cooking, and baby formula, use water that has been run through a filter. Filters should be certified by an American National Standards Institute, like the NSF 53 for lead removal and NSF 42 for particulate removal. Maintain and replace the filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to protect water quality.



Have your water tested. Contact our Know Your Pipes Customer Care Center at 786-268-6955 or email us at knowyourpipes@miamidade.gov to find out how to get your water tested.

For more information on reducing lead exposure and the health effects of lead, visit the EPA website at www.epa.gov/lead, or contact your health care provider.