

# Tips to Reduce Lead in Drinking Water

## Run the cold water tap for two minutes before using it for drinking and cooking.

Lead and other metals can dissolve in water when it sits in pipes for a few hours.

## Do not use the hot water tap for drinking and cooking.

Always use cold tap water, including water used for making ice, beverages, and infant formula.

Hot tap water can cause a greater amount of lead to release from plumbing and may contain metals and bacteria that build up in the water heater.

## Remove and clean faucet aerators.

Lead particles and sediment can collect in the aerator screen located at the tip of your faucet.

Aerators should be replaced once a year and are available at local hardware stores.

## Install lead-free plumbing fixtures.

Install fixtures and fittings that contain 0.25 percent lead or less.

## Replace lead service pipes.

Replace a lead service pipe with recommended material.

For information about the City's Lead Service Replacement Program, visit: [cityofsycamore.com/water](http://cityofsycamore.com/water)



## Replace household galvanized plumbing.

When lead is released from a lead service pipe and passes through galvanized pipes, lead can build up on the inside, corroded walls of this plumbing and release lead in household water.

Contact a licensed plumber about replacing household plumbing.

## Flush cold water taps after installing new household pipes or fixtures.

New plumbing can release metals after installation.

Flush cold water taps for five minutes at a high flow rate once a day for three days, especially before using water for drinking and cooking.

## Use filtered tap water.

If you are pregnant or have children under age six, use cold, filtered tap water for drinking and cooking until all lead sources are removed. This includes water used for making infant formula, beverages, and ice.

Select a filter certified to meet NSF Standard 53 for lead. The filter package should specifically list the device as certified for removing the contaminant "lead."

Routinely replace filter cartridges according to the manufacturer's instructions.

## Drain your water heater annually.

Over time, metals, sediment, and bacteria can build up in your water heater.

## Our Drinking Water

1. Where does Sycamore's drinking water come from?



2. Who treats drinking water?



3. Who distributes drinking water?



4. Where can lead be found?



The City of Sycamore has five wells that draw water from deep sandstone aquifers.

The Water Division of the Public Works Department is responsible for water treatment and adds orthophosphate (a food-grade chemical) to minimize the release of lead from service pipes and household plumbing.

The Water Division distributes water to homes and businesses through roughly 115 miles of watermain.

Lead can enter your water if you have a lead service pipe or household plumbing with lead. Orthophosphate can reduce lead release from these sources.

1-3 ESSENTIALLY NO LEAD FOUND