



**City of Plymouth-Department of Municipal Services
1231 Goldsmith, Plymouth, MI 48170
January 20, 2016**



Lead & Copper Safety in City of Plymouth Municipal Drinking Water

In light of the recent news regarding Flint's water supply, the City of Plymouth has prepared the following information regarding Lead and Copper in municipal drinking water.

First, **the City of Plymouth water is safe.** We are and have been, even before the current news reports emerged, committed to ongoing testing of our water supply to ensure our resident's safety.

Second, lead and copper sampling is required to be conducted every 3 years by the City of Plymouth to be in compliance with both State and Federal Regulations.

- Samples are taken from a selection of residential properties throughout the City of Plymouth water system. Water samples are tested at a certified laboratory and the results are announced to all users of the water system through the annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). The City CCR can be found at <http://www.ci.plymouth.mi.us/ccr2014> which is updated each year. The 2015 CCR will be posted by July 1, 2016; following its submission to MDEQ.
- The City of Plymouth has NOT exceeded the action level (AL) for Lead or Copper. The following table is the result of our most recent Lead and Copper testing completed September 2014:

Key to Table	Contaminant	AL	MCLG	90 th Percentile Value*	Number of Samples over AL	Violation yes/no	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety. ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter	Lead (ppb)	15	0	0	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits
	Copper (ppb)	1300	1300	21	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
<small>*The 90th percentile value means 90 percent of the homes tested have lead and copper levels below the given 90th percentile value. If the 90th percentile value is above the AL additional requirements must be met.</small>							

- Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing systems. The City of Plymouth Department of Municipal Services is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but does not control the variety of materials used in residential plumbing components. Steps can be taken to reduce your exposure to lead in drinking water. These include: flushing your water system prior to drinking or cooking; cook and prepare baby formula with cold water only; use a water filter rated to remove lead; use bottled water for drinking.
- Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women, young children and immuno-compromised persons. Additional information regarding the health hazards of lead and reducing your risk of exposure to lead can be found on the US Environmental Protection Agency website at: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead> or by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at: 1-800-426-4791 or calling the National Lead Information Center at: 1-800-425-LEAD.
- A note on water clarity: There have been pictures circulating of rusty or cloudy water in articles regarding water safety in Flint. As many of us in the City of Plymouth know from water main breaks and fire hydrant flushing, the presence of suspended rust in the water can turn it orange, red, brown or yellow, a result of naturally occurring minerals in the system being disturbed. This is not an indication of lead or any other contaminants in the water, nor does it make it unsafe. **(Lead is colorless, odorless and tasteless).** As for cloudy water, it is a result of trapped air (in the form of air bubbles) in the water system and is not an indicator of water quality.

If you have additional questions or concerns, feel free to contact The Department of Municipal Services at 734-453-7737 x 0, or by email at dms@ci.plymouth.mi.us.