



Tips for Living with Lead in Your Home – WATER

- Have your water tested. Contact your water utility to have your water tested and to learn more about the lead levels in your drinking water.
- If your water tests positive for any amount of lead, use only cold water for drinking, cooking and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water, but a water filter can reduce low levels of lead.
- Use your water filter properly. If you use a filter, make sure you use a filter certified to remove lead. Read the directions to learn how to properly install and use your cartridge and when to replace it.
- Do not run hot water through the filter.
- Before using water for drinking, cooking or making baby formula, run your water if it has not been run in several hours. Flush your pipes by running your tap, taking a shower, or doing laundry or a load of dishes. If your home has a lead service line, run your water for three to five minutes. If not, run your water for one minute. Residents should contact their water utility for recommendations about flushing times in their community.
- Clean your faucet screen regularly (also known as an aerator). Sediment, debris and lead can get into your water.
- Old cast iron tubs and sinks may have a porcelain coating with lead. Test the tub or sink with a magnet and if it sticks, then it is cast iron. Limit bath time to less than 20 minutes, do not reuse water, and when possible, re-coat or replace the tub or sink.

