Prescriptions for Prevention

Municipal Water

Did you know?

Municipal water goes through a treatment process and has to meet EPA safety standards before reaching your tap. However, contaminants such as lead, microplastics, and PFAS can still be found in drinking water.

Action Plan

- Check if your home has a lead water service line. For resources on how to do this see the back of this page.
- If water has not been used for 6 hours or more, let the cold water run for 3-5 minutes to flush water from the pipes before drinking or cooking with it.
- Never use hot water from the tap to mix baby formula or to cook with. Hot water can leach more lead from pipes than cold water does.
- Use a point-of-use filtration device on your tap or a water pitcher with filters that are certified to NSF/Ansi 42, 53, and 401 standards. See the resource on the back for guidance on purchasing a certified filter.
- Contact your health department if you think you have gotten sick from water, are concerned about the quality of your water, or notice a change in the smell, taste, or color of your water.
- Review the water quality report that your utility provider is required to make available each year. For guidance on how to read these reports click this link or scan the QR code:
- Use the **Environmental Working Group's Tap Water Database** to enter your zip code and view a report on the quality of water in your area. Click this link or scan the QR code:

Perelman School of Medicine University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia Regional Center for Children's Environmental Health
NIEHS Grant: P2CES033428
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Resources

Philadelphia Water Department

Report Changes in Water: Contact the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) by calling (215) 685-6300 if you have concerns about the taste or odor of your water.

Request Water Testing: If you are concerned about lead or the quality of your water the PWD will conduct free water quality tests. You can schedule a test by calling (215) 685-6300.

Check Water Quality Report: Get access to the most recent water quality report and sign up for water quality updates by clicking this link or scanning the QR code:

Is Your Service Line Lead?

Use this guide to find out what material your Philadelphia home's water service line is made of by checking the city's service line map or by checking it yourself. Click this link or scan the QR code to find the map and instructions:

Learn More

To learn more about drinking water quality and how it is treated, click this link or scan the QR code to view the CDC's resource on the topic:

Replace Lead Service Lines

If you have a lead service line, the Homeowners Emergency Loan Program has a zero-interest loan for homeowners who want to replace their lead service lines. To apply click this link or scan the QR code:

Water Filtration Devices

For guidance on how to find certified point-of-use and pitcher water filtration devices click this link or scan the QR code:

For more information on the resources here or other questions, contact the Philadelphia Regional Center for Children's Environmental Health at:
215-573-9076 prcceh@pennmedicine.upenn.edu
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