

Get Ahead of Lead

A Statewide Strategy to Protect Those Most at Risk of Lead's Harmful Effects

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Recommendations

MDHHS recommends that all Michigan households use a certified lead-reducing drinking water filter if their home has or if they are uncertain if it has one of the following:

- Lead or galvanized plumbing.
- A lead service line carrying water from the street to their home.
- Old faucets and fittings that were sold before 2014.

Use a filter until you are able to remove sources of household lead plumbing, such as:

- Replace pre-2014 faucets.
- Get a lead inspection and replace needed plumbing.



The statewide “Get Ahead of Lead” strategy includes:

- An education campaign around the sources of lead in household plumbing and the filter recommendation, and,
- Filter safety net assistance for households that may need support to implement this recommendation in communities with a high risk of lead exposure.



To learn more about the statewide “Get Ahead of Lead” strategy use the QR code or visit [Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe/Get-Ahead-of-Lead](https://www.michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe/Get-Ahead-of-Lead).

Check Your Home's Plumbing for Lead



To learn more about checking your home's plumbing, use the QR code or visit <https://www.michigan.gov/mileadsafe/-/media/Project/Websites/mileadsafe/Educational-resources/Home-Plumbing-Lead-Checklist.pdf>.

How to Select a Filter



Look for filters that are tested and certified to NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for lead reduction and NSF/ANSI Standard 42 for class I particulates. Click the QR code or visit https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2018-12/documents/consumer_tool_for_identifying_drinking_water_filters_certified_to_reduce_lead.pdf to go to the Get Ahead of Lead website to learn more.

Communities at Higher Risk of Lead Exposure

Filter-assistance communities have an increased risk of lead exposure based on a data-driven approach to identify communities with higher percents of children with elevated blood lead levels, older housing stock and poverty. If you live in one of the communities below, visit Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe/Get-Ahead-of-Lead to learn about resources available to you.

Current Filter Safety Net communities:

- Three Rivers.
- Dowagiac.
- Owosso.
- City of Wayne.
- Manistee.
- East Pointe.
- Lapeer.
- Harper Woods.
- Grand Rapids.

Current Faucet and Filter Safety Net communities:

- Albion.
- Benton Harbor.
- Detroit.
- Ecorse.
- Flint.
- Hamtramck.
- Highland Park.
- Inkster.
- Muskegon Heights.
- Pontiac.
- Saginaw.

Households that previously received filters from MDHHS, but no longer qualify based on Safety Net criteria, will continue to receive replacement reminders.

Other low-income households that do not meet the Safety Net program criteria may seek support for faucet replacement or other lead abatement work from:

- Weatherization and state emergency services. For more information, visit NewMiBridges.Michigan.gov.
- Lead Prevention Fund Loan Program. Visit the MISAVES website at MichiganSaves.org/LeadFund or call MISAVES at 517-484-6474 to learn about the loan application process.

Threat of Lead from Drinking Water

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that no safe blood lead level has been identified for young children; all sources of lead exposure for children should be controlled or eliminated. Lead can be found throughout a child's environment including their homes. Homes built before 1978 can contain lead-based paint and dust, which is a well-established cause of exposure to lead. Children can also be exposed to lead in their household drinking water due to corrosion of older water service lines and pipes, faucets, and fittings. This can occur on homes served by a private well or a public water supply.

For More Information

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

1-844-934-1315

Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe/Get-Ahead-of-Lead



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