

TOMAH WATER UTILITY

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Because of the recent events in Flint Michigan, the Tomah Water Utility is offering the following information to its customers that may have concerns about lead in the drinking water.

In compliance with State and Federal standards, Tomah Water Utility tests Lead and Copper levels in the water distribution system every three years. Samples are taken throughout the system from selected customer's homes based on certain criteria, such as age or plumbing components.

Tomah Water System's sample results fall well below the 15 parts per billion (ppb) compliance standards for lead and the 1300 ppb standard for copper. All lead water lines in the City of Tomah water system have been replaced over the years with copper lines. The Last few known lead services were replaced in 2006. Lead pipes on the homeowner's side of the service lateral would be considered very rare.

Lead can be a problem in old homes which are more likely to have plumbing fixtures or solder containing lead. 2014 revisions to the Safe Drinking Water Act made it illegal to install any new components to the public water system or customers plumbing that are not "lead free". Still on occasion lead can be detected in very new homes, where the plumbing has not yet built up mineral deposits that can help prevent lead from dissolving into drinking water, a phenomenon known as leaching.

Lead leaches into the drinking water primarily as a result of corrosion or wearing away of materials in the water distribution system and household plumbing that contain lead.

The Tomah Water Utility treats the water at each of its five wells with chlorine and polyphosphate.

Polyphosphate acts as a corrosion inhibitor and also forms a very thin metal-phosphate coating on the surface of all pipes and plumbing in the system, acting as a barrier between any lead components and the water.

As a further precaution, you may flush your water lines to remove concerns of lead in the water. Flushing clears standing water from your plumbing and home service line to ensure you are getting drinking water from the main, where lead is rarely present. Let the water run from the tap until it is noticeably colder before using it for cooking or drinking.

More information is available at <http://drinktap.org/water-info/whats-in-my-water/lead-in-water.aspx#sthash.hBj9PObC.dpuf>

Water quality information and test results are available online at:

<http://tomahonline.com> under Water Department, In the 2015 Water Confidence Report

Or on the DNR site at:

[http://prodoasext.dnr.wi.gov/inter1/pws2\\$ws_web_dist_sys.QueryViewByKey?P RO_SEQ_NO24=146085&Z_CHK=31801](http://prodoasext.dnr.wi.gov/inter1/pws2$ws_web_dist_sys.QueryViewByKey?P RO_SEQ_NO24=146085&Z_CHK=31801)