



CITY OF BERWYN WAIVES TAP FEES FOR RESIDENTIAL LEAD SERVICE REPLACEMENT

Recently, news agencies, in response to the Flint Michigan water crisis, have spread fear with further investigations into other municipalities. Some have suggested that the water in the City of Berwyn is not safe for drinking due to unsafe levels of lead.

The City of Berwyn receives its water from Lake Michigan and our water system consists of approximately 100 miles of cast and ductile iron water mains; none of the City's water mains contain lead. The City of Berwyn completed 124 water tests for lead in 2015. All tests were within the IEPA range of satisfactory results. (<.15 ppb) The next scheduled IEPA testing for lead by the City of Berwyn is during the calendar year 2018.

Although the City's water system does not contain lead in its pipes, the City recommends that residents test the water in their businesses and homes. This recommendation is based on the fact that individual water services for both residential and commercial properties connect to the City water main located in the middle of the street. These water services are often older lines that might contain lead. The water lines for residential and commercial properties belong to and are the responsibility of the property owner.

Any resident can perform their own lead test for their water. The City utilizes Suburban Laboratories for our testing. You may contact them at: drinkingwaterlabs.com or by phone at (708) 544-3260. The cost for this test starts at \$45. You may also look for another local certified lab of your choice.

Following are steps you can take to reduce your exposure to lead in your water.

1. Run your water for 15 – 30 seconds to flush lead from interior plumbing or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking, if it hasn't been used for several hours.
2. Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula. Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
3. Do not boil water to remove lead. Boiling water will not reduce lead.
4. Look for alternative sources or treatment of water. You may want to consider purchasing a water filter, bottled water or replacing your lead water service. Read the package to ensure your filter is approved to reduce lead. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to continue to protect water quality.
5. Contact your local health department to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about exposure.

The City of Berwyn, in order to promote better health through clean water, is assisting and encouraging residents to replace their lead water services. For the next twelve (12) months, the City of Berwyn will waive the tap connection fee. In addition, the City will restore the roadway after the installation is complete and verify that the road is properly prepared.

The City of Berwyn encourages its residents to be proactive in taking the time to test their home's water, and if they see necessary, to take advantage of the City's waiving of tap connection fees and road restoration when replacing their lead water services.

Respectfully,

Robert Schiller
Public Works Director