



What is recommended for Kent County residents?

The Kent County Health Department, City of Grand Rapids and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services recommend that Kent County residents 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 residence
- Older faucets and fittings sold before 2014



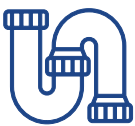
Is my water supply safe?

Municipal water systems throughout Kent County are tested regularly and meet all state and federal guidelines governing lead levels. However, lead may enter drinking water due to corrosion of older water service lines and pipes, faucets, and fittings inside the home leading to elevated levels of lead for water that comes out of the faucets in a home. No level of lead in the water is considered safe.



I have a well. Do I need to be concerned about lead leaching into my water system?

Private drinking water wells do not have the same requirements for lead testing as public water supplies do. Parts of your well - such as the pump, pipe, or valves - may contain lead. Connecting pipe, indoor plumbing, and faucets may also contain lead. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, have it tested.



How do I know if I have lead, galvanized or other plumbing in my house?

- The Kent County Health Department produced a video which can be found at [gettingaheadoflead.com](https://www.gettingaheadoflead.com) to help residents determine if they have lead, galvanized or other plumbing materials in their home. The City of Grand Rapids has posted a map of lead service lines in the city on its website.



How can I find out if my loved ones, members of my household or I are at risk?

- Find out what year your home was built. If your home was built before 1978, it is more likely to have lead-based paint.
- Check with [whom?] to see if your home, rental property, or child's daycare has had lead issues addressed in the past.
- Hire a certified lead professional to test your home, household items, soil, and drinking water for lead.
- Test your water. The State of Michigan certifies laboratories to test for lead and copper in drinking water. Approved laboratories can be found by visiting Michigan.gov/mileadsafe. Please note that while listed, the Kent County Health Department no longer provides water sampling.
- Read the labels of the products you use for home hobbies.
- Throw away any household items that have been recalled due to lead.



Who qualifies to receive a free filter?

Households are eligible for a free filter if the residence has a lead service line or any lead plumbing and meets the following qualifications:

- A child under 18 or a pregnant woman lives in the home, and
- A member of the household is enrolled in Medicaid or WIC, and
- The household is unable to afford a filter



Do I have to preregister to receive a filter?

Yes, Kent County residents who are eligible for a free filter should visit gettingaheadoflead.com to complete a short survey and to register for a time to pick up a filter. Residents without access to the Intranet can call 2-1-1 for registration assistance.



Is the registration survey available in more than one language?

Yes, the survey is available in English and Spanish.



Where are the distribution sites?

Distribution of free filters are being held in the cities of Grand Rapids and Kentwood. Visit gettingaheadoflead.com for operational hours. Residents without access to the Intranet can call 2-1-1 to obtain additional information.



Do I need to be a resident of Grand Rapids to pick up a filter at the Grand Rapids pick up site? Do I need to be a resident of Kentwood to pick up a filter at the Kentwood pick up site?

No, residency is not a requirement for either distribution site. You can pick-up a filter at the most convenient location.



I don't qualify for a free filter. What can I do to reduce lead exposure?

If you suspect your plumbing puts you at risk for lead exposure, you should purchase and install lead-reducing water filters on faucets used for drinking and cooking. Look for water filter packaging marked with the following certifications: NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for lead reduction and NSF/ANSI Standard 42 for particulate reduction (Class I).



Additional Instructions:

- Residents should not boil water to remove lead.
- Residents should use cold, filtered water for:
 - Drinking
 - Rinsing foods and cooking
 - Making baby formula
 - Brushing teeth
- Unfiltered water can be used for:
 - Washing hands, showering, and bathing
 - Washing dishes and doing laundry
 - Household cleaning



Families can further reduce exposure to lead in household drinking water by following these tips:

- Keeping Water Moving - Run water for several minutes each morning or after household water has not been used for several hours. This brings new water into the home's pipes before using it for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. This can be accomplished by doing household tasks like showering, washing clothes, or running the dishwasher first. Before using the water from any faucet for drinking or cooking, run the water again for at least several seconds or until it goes from room temperature to cold.
- Remove and clean aerators—the screens on the ends of faucets—every six months. Aerators help keep pieces of lead and other particles from getting into your water. During construction or repairs to the public water system or service lines near your home, clean aerators at least every month until the work is done.
- Replace older plumbing, pipes, and faucets to prevent lead in drinking water. According to the EPA, lead can enter drinking water when lead-based plumbing materials corrode. The most common sources of lead in drinking water include lead service lines, pipes, faucets, and fixtures. Lead pipes are more likely to be found in homes built before 1986.
- Older faucets and fittings sold before 2014 may contain up to 8% lead, even if marked “lead-free.” Look for replacement faucets made in 2014 or later and make sure they are NSF 61 certified or marked to contain 0.25% lead or less. Residents can hire a plumber to find parts that should be replaced to reduce lead in drinking water.



Can I use my water for my garden?

Irrigation (watering) your garden with lead-contaminated water does not significantly increase soil lead levels. Additionally, vegetables do not readily take up lead from the soil or water. If you are concerned about watering with lead-contaminated water, you can purchase a lead filter that attaches to your garden hose, purchase a rain barrel, or make a rainwater catchment system that is best for your garden. Visit bit.ly/LeadGardenSafety for more information on lead safety and gardening.



Is the water safe for my pets?

Give your pets bottled water to drink. It is also recommended that you use bottled water when making your pet's food. Just like people, dogs, cats, and other pets can be harmed by drinking water with heavy metals like lead. It is recommended that residents use a certified lead-reducing drinking water filter to serve their pets 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 residence
- Older faucets and fittings sold before 2014



Where can I find more information about lead exposure and ways to reduce lead?

Residents with additional questions about ways to reduce lead exposure can visit one of the following websites:

- Kent County Health Department, City of Grand Rapids, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Lead Campaign - gettingaheadoflead.com
- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services - michigan.gov/mileadsafe
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - cdc.gov/nceh/lead/default.htm

Residents with additional questions are advised to call the KCHD at (616)632-7145.