

CITY OF MEDFORD DRINKING WATER NOTICE

Some homes have high levels of lead

This notice contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you or speak with someone who understands it.

Este aviso contém informações importantes sobre a sua água potável. Peça a alguém que o traduza ou fale com alguém que o compreenda.

Our water system exceeded the lead drinking water action level.

We routinely monitor for lead in water in homes with lead service lines as they are more likely to have elevated lead levels. We are required to collect 20 samples between July 1, 2025 and October 31, 2025. Three (3) of these higher risk homes had elevated lead levels. The results of these routine samples for lead indicate a level of 0.0155 mg/L (or 15.5 parts per billion). This level exceeds the lead action level of 0.015 mg/L (or 15 parts per billion). This means that more than 10 percent of the lead samples collected were above the lead action level.

What does this mean?

Our system's water mains that carry the water to you are made mostly of cast iron and ductile iron, and therefore do not add lead to water. However, lead can get into tap water through the service line that connects your home to the water main if it is made of lead. Lead may also come from lead solder used to connect pipes in home plumbing, and from some faucets and fixtures.

There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Some of the health effects to infants and children include decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can also result in new or worsened learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy may be at increased risk of these harmful health effects. Adults have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems. Contact your health care provider for more information about your risks.

What should I do to reduce my exposure to lead?

- **Use only cold, fresh water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula.** Run the water for at least 1 minute or until after it turns cold. For more guidance on the use of filters, cleaning aerators, how to flush your water lines to reduce lead in drinking water exposure, and how to have your water tested, see this MassDEP webpage:

<https://mass.gov/info-details/guidance-for-single-family-residents-at-risk-of-lead-in-drinking-water-exposure>



- **Do not boil the water to remove lead.**
- **Check whether your home has a lead service line. IF YOU DO, HAVE IT REMOVED.**
Please contact WaterServiceLead@medford-ma.gov for more information about your home's service line, how to have it removed, or for information about plumbing materials in your home that may contain lead.
- **Learn what your service line material is by checking your home address at:**
www.medfordma.org/departments/watersewer/lead-in-water Please contact waterservicelead@medford-ma.gov for more information about your home's service line, how to have it removed, or for information about plumbing materials in your home that may contain lead.
- **Contact your health care provider if you have any health-related questions or contact your local health department to find out if your child needs to be tested for lead.**

What is our system doing?

Our public water system is taking the following actions to address the situation:

- The City of Medford replaces an average of 250 lead service lines per year. The City of Medford is currently in the process of multiple lead service line replacement programs. The City Medford is required to remove 250 lead service lines per year and investigate 300 unknown service lines per year. The city will continue to investigate homes with lead service lines and will provide free water testing and inspection upon request.

For more information, contact us at 781-475-5151 or WaterServiceLead@medford-ma.gov

For more information on lead see www.medfordma.org/departments/watersewer/lead-in-water

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by the City of Medford. PWS ID#: 3176000 Date distributed 10/31/25
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