

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR DRINKING WATER

### *A Message from Mayor, LeRoy D. Burcroff*



*The health and safety of our residents is a top priority for our City. Romulus has a consistent track record of meeting or exceeding standards for water quality and lead levels in our water distribution system. The Great Lakes Water Authority provides water to 127 municipalities across southeast Michigan, including Romulus, which amounts to approximately 3.9 million customers.*

*There is no cause for excess concern by residents across our distribution area. However, we should always be aware of the harm that lead in water can cause and educate ourselves on ways we can reduce our risk inside the home. I hope you find the following information helpful and educational. Thank you for reading.*

### *A Message from Director of Public Works, Roberto Scappaticci*

*This information is being provided as an educational measure triggered by the high lead levels at only one vacant home where a partial lead service line was disturbed during construction in June.*

*The City of Romulus strives to maintain our water mains & distribution system at a level higher than the expected or mandated regulations of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). The City receives water from the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA). The GLWA has a very successful corrosion control plan that mitigates any lead leaching from lead plumbing, as seen by our routine lead monitoring test results taken early this year. All samples that were taken were below the EPA limits of 15 parts per billion lead residual.*

*Partial lead service line replacement can result in lead particles entering the water system which are flushed out after construction. If the duration of flushing is not adequate, or particles do not dislodge from the pipe until later when samples are taken, the particle will enter the sample which renders it out of compliance. Lead residuals from construction, once flushed out of the system properly, normally return the water back to acceptable levels for consumption and use.*

*The City of Romulus found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in one home in June. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Please read this notice closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.*

This notice is brought to you by The City of Romulus.  
Date November 2017

## **What Happened? What is Being Done?**

When homeowners choose not to remove their lead service lines, testing is conducted to ensure the lead residual in the water is below the established EPA Action Level of 15 parts per billion (ppb). During the summer, the City tested one vacant home in the northeast corner of the City whose owner decided not to remove their private lead water service line. At this address, laboratory test results showed that this home had lead residuals of 120 parts per billion (ppb) which is considerably higher than the EPA threshold.

The City also conducted seven other routine lead and copper monitoring samples elsewhere in the City, all of which have been analyzed at the Great Lakes Water Authority's laboratory, and show that the results in the water distribution system are all below the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Action Level.

During water main replacement projects, when the contractor comes across lead services the homeowner is notified and arrangements are made between homeowners and the City's contractor conducting the water main removal and replacement to remove the lead services and replace them with copper or plastic lines at the homeowners expense on the private side of the service line.

You can contact us at 734-942-7579 to find out how to determine if you may have a lead service line.

Leads levels in the City from past testing have shown that lead leaching from plumbing has been controlled very successfully with the Great Lakes Water Authority's corrossions control program.

## **Health Effects of Lead**

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

## **Sources of Lead**

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. Drinking water is one possible source of lead exposure. Other sources of lead exposure for most individuals are lead-based paint, lead-contaminated dust or soil, and some plumbing materials. In addition, lead can be found in certain types of pottery, pewter, fixtures, food, and cosmetics. Other sources include exposure in the work place and exposure from certain hobbies (lead can be carried on clothing or shoes).



Plumbing products such as pipes and fixtures, may contain lead. Homes built before 1988 are more likely to have plumbing containing lead, but newer homes may also contain lead. Beginning in 2014, the law reduced the allowable level of lead in these products to a maximum of 0.25 percent to be labeled as “lead free.” Older fixtures may contain higher levels of lead.

The City of Romulus receives its water from the Great Lakes Water Authority and their treatment of the water has been very successful at mitigating lead leaching from customer plumbing. “The water Romulus receives from Great Lakes Water Authority does not contain lead and Romulus does not have any lead in its distribution water mains in the street. When water is not being used for several hours and comes in contact with pipes or service lines or plumbing that contains lead, the lead may enter the drinking water. Homes built before 1986 are more likely to have plumbing containing lead. New homes may also have lead; even “lead-free” plumbing may contain some lead.

EPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20 percent or more of a person’s potential exposure to lead. Infants who consume mostly mixed formula can receive 40 percent to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water due to plumbing.

Don’t forget about other sources of lead, such as lead paint, lead dust, and lead in soil. Wash your children’s hands and toys often as they can come into contact with dirt and dust containing lead.

## **Steps You Can Take to Reduce Your Exposure to Lead in Your Water**

1. Run your water to flush out lead. Run water for 15-30 seconds 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. This flushes lead-containing water from the pipes.
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 levels.
4. Look for alternative sources or treatment of water. You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org) for information on performance standards for water filters. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions to protect water quality.
5. Get your child tested. Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about exposure.
6. Test your water for lead. Kits are available at local box store building centers and a homeowner can use a local water testing laboratory to get your water tested for lead. There are laboratories in the area that are certified to conduct lead testing for water. In addition, the MDEQ state laboratory and Great Lakes Water Authority test for lead in drinking water, and bottles can be requested from these offices.
7. Identify if your plumbing fixtures contain lead. Faucets, fittings, and valves may contribute lead to drinking water unless they have been replaced since 2013. Any new connecting plumbing and fittings should meet the 2014 lead-free definition. If you replace your faucet, buy a new one that meets the 2014 lead-free definition. Visit the National Sanitation Foundation Web site at [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org) to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures.

## **For More Information**

Call us at 734-942-7579 or (or visit our website at [www.romulusgov.com](http://www.romulusgov.com), on the **Department of Public Works page** and click on the **GLWA link** for more information regarding lead and drinking water). For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA’s Web site at [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead) or contact your health care provider.

**City of Romulus  
Department of Public Works**

12600 Wayne Road  
Romulus, MI 48174

**ECRWSS  
POSTAL CUSTOMER  
LOCAL DELIVERY**

**Important Websites for More Information**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Health Impacts of Lead

[www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead](http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead)

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

[www.michigan.gov/deq](http://www.michigan.gov/deq)

Great Lakes Water Authority, Water Quality Matters

[www.glwater.org/water-system/water-quality-matters/](http://www.glwater.org/water-system/water-quality-matters/)

**Important information from the City of Romulus  
Water Department**

**THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PROVIDED TO  
COMPLY WITH THE SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT**

**To view the 2016 Consumer Confidence Report  
describing the source and quality of your  
drinking water, please visit:**

**[www.romulusgov.com/ccr](http://www.romulusgov.com/ccr)**

**To receive a paper copy, please call  
(734) 942-7579**