

SIMPLE HABITS TO INCLUDE IN YOUR DAILY ROUTINE

- 1.** Let the water run from the tap few minutes after it turns cold (cool in summer), and especially if it has been sitting in the pipes for many hours (first thing in the morning or when you come home from work).
- 2.** After letting the tap water run, fill a pitcher and put it in the refrigerator; however, after a few days, pour out what's still left, if you haven't used it all by then, and fill another pitcher.
- 3.** Always use cold water for cooking (coffee, tea, steam or boil vegetables, pasta, rice, etc.)
- 4.** Clean the aerators (small screens) in your taps.

There is no point in boiling water : Lead won't evaporate and cannot be destroyed by boiling.

MONTREAL'S WATER

The drinking water produced and distributed by the city's water supply system is of excellent quality and is in keeping with the maximum lead content allowed in Québec. However, when this water remains stagnant for a while in your lead water service connection, some lead may dissolve in the water, thereby increasing the lead concentration in the tap water.

The water that comes from your tap must be analysed in accordance with a protocol (a set of steps) approved by the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques (MDDELCC) in order for the analysis to be valid. If you want to have your tap water analyzed, make sure you contact an accredited laboratory¹.

MONTREAL ACTION PLAN

By 2026, the city would like to eliminate the 60,000 lead water service connections on its territory.

If you are an owner, we recommend that you replace the lead water service pipe connecting your property to the municipal system when the city replaces the portion located on public property and this will correct the situation once and for all. You'll also avoid the costs of rebuilding public infrastructures such as sidewalks.

Have the private section of your water service connection replaced regardless of whether municipal replacement operations are planned on your street in the short term. You will then be able to apply to the city to have the remaining public section replaced.

¹ The list of laboratories certified by the ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques is available at: ceaeq.gouv.qc.ca/accreditation/pala/lla03

FOR MORE INFORMATION

311
ville.montreal.qc.ca/plomb

811 – Info-santé CLSC
santemontreal.ca/eaupotable

MDDELCC Information Center in Québec City
1 800 561-1616
mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca/Eau/potable/plomb

DOES YOUR TAP WATER MEET THE STANDARDS ?



WHERE IS LEAD FOUND ?

Lead may be found in small quantities in the air, water, food and dust. However, while old paint and gasoline used to contain large amounts of lead, this problem has since been eliminated through more restrictive legislation and standards.

The Québec government regulated the quality of drinking water in 2001; this maximum was reduced to 0.01 mg per litre, in accordance with current recommendations of Health Canada and the trends of other countries in the western world.

Montréal is compliant with all new government requirements. Some homes built before 1970 might still be made of lead. In fact, lead pipes are not unique to Montréal. These pipes are found elsewhere in Québec, in the rest of Canada and around the world.

As well, no cases of lead poisoning caused by tap water have ever been reported in Montréal.

PREVENTION TIPS

The Direction régionale de santé publique of the CIUSSS du Centre-Sud-de-l'Île-de-Montréal (DRSP) has evaluated the health risk associated with the presence of lead in the tap water of buildings having a lead water service connection on the island of Montréal. It considers this risk to be low and limited to pregnant women (for the unborn child) and children under 6 years old.

To reduce this very low risk even further, the DRSP recommends that pregnant women and parents of children under six :

- 1. Use a NSF-certified filtration device² (filtering pitcher, a filter under the sink or a filter attached to the faucet) to reduce lead in compliance with NSF/ANSI standard 53.
- 2. Drink bottled water. This precaution is especially important for newborns drinking formula made of concentrated or powdered milk.

² Regardless of the type of filter, the manufacturer's recommendations on installation and maintenance of these filters must be closely followed.

HOW TO RECOGNIZE A LEAD WATER SERVICE CONNECTION

Find the water service valve and look at the pipe :

- 1. lead is grey;
- 2. lead does not echo if you strike it;
- 3. lead leaves metallic marks when you scratch it;
- 4. lead does not attract a magnet.

If you can't check the pipe yourself, contact your landlord or a plumber, who can do this for you. Nevertheless, even if your home doesn't have a lead water service connection, there is still a possibility that an underground section of that water service connection is made out of lead or a section under the street, on the public side. An analysis of your water by an accredited laboratory will confirm whether or not any sections of your water service connection are made of lead.



Lead pipe



Copper pipe

TYPES OF BUILDINGS THAT MAY HAVE LEAD WATER SERVICE CONNECTIONS

- **A building that was built between 1940 and 1950, commonly known as wartime housing**
The water service connection running from your home to the city's water supply system might be made of lead. If that's the case, it means that the standard has probably been met, but the risks of non-compliance with the standard are higher.
- **A building with fewer than eight units, built before 1970**
The water service connection running from your home to the city's water supply system might be made of lead. However, even if it is, this doesn't mean that the standard hasn't been met.

Building with eight units or more, or house built after 1970, the likelihood of having a lead water service connection running from your home to the city's water supply system is practically non-existent.

