

JOINT PRESS RELEASE FROM YWD & KWD

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York Water District and Kittery Water District has been monitoring the Flint, Michigan lead crisis, and our thoughts are with all those who are struggling without access to safe and reliable water in their homes. In North America, no one should have to question the safety of water at the tap. The situation in Flint underscores that our first job is to protect the communities we serve. Those of us involved in managing, treating and delivering water share a solemn obligation to protect public health.

According to the EPA, studies have shown that the primary source of lead in drinking water is not from the main public water source but rather, from our own household plumbing and plumbing fixtures. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) of 1986 and amendments banned use of lead water pipes, lead solder, and called for “lead free” public water systems. Like with most water suppliers, the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) of 1991 required the Districts to assess and subsequently implement corrosion control treatment (CCT) to minimize risk of exposure to lead and copper leaching from household pipes.

The treated water produced by our filtration plants is tested regularly for Lead content. Results have been below detectable levels and our corrosion control treatment has been optimized and confirmed effective on a routine basis. The results of lead and copper sampling at homes throughout the distribution system can be found in the annual Consumer Confidence Reports (CCR) on the Districts’ web sites. This does NOT mean that all customers have no lead pipes or solder in the home that can contaminate water coming in. Lead service lines are typically only present in older homes, but older brass faucets with lead content can be in newer homes. A licensed plumber can tell you for sure if you inspect your plumbing, check for lead solders in your internal pipes and look for fixtures containing lead.

- 1) If you are a property owner, especially in a house built prior to 1986, there are simple steps that you can take to address potential risks from lead in water. Until you are certain there is no problem flush your tap until your water feels coldest before use and only use cold water for cooking. Use this first water to water plants or wash dishes.
- 2) Have your tap water tested. There are many State certified laboratories in the area that can test a sample for typically between \$30 and \$100.
- 3) Have a plumbing professional check your plumbing for signs of lead.

If you have questions or concerns please contact York or Kittery Water District for more information.