

YPSILANTI COMMUNITY UTILITIES AUTHORITY

Environmental Leaders



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Dedicated to Providing Top Quality, Cost Effective, and Environmentally Safe
Water and Wastewater Services to Our Customers

Public Notice

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YCUA Issues Statement on High Quality of Water in Ypsilanti Area

The Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority (YCUA) distributes water and provides wastewater treatment services to approximately 27,000 homes and businesses in the City of Ypsilanti and the Charter Township of Ypsilanti and portions of Canton and York Townships. YCUA also provides water to Pittsfield, Superior, and Augusta Townships, which operate and maintain their own water distribution systems.

In the face of the Flint water crisis, YCUA wants to assure its customers that its water is safe and that it meets all regulatory standards under the Safe Drinking Water Act. YCUA obtains treated drinking water from the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA), formerly the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD). GLWA's source water is the Detroit River and Lake Huron.

Lead enters drinking water primarily from corrosion or wearing away of materials in the water distribution system and household plumbing that contains lead. GLWA uses orthophosphate as a corrosion control inhibitor to keep our water safe and eliminate the risk of an incident like the one that occurred in Flint. Corrosion control forms a protective layer on the inside of plumbing materials by chemically binding with the pipes to prevent the dissolution of lead and other metals into the water.

Since 1992, GLWA (and before it, DWSD) and YCUA have tested for lead (and copper) in customers' homes that have plumbing that may contribute lead to the household water supply. During the late 1990s, at the direction of the State of Michigan, YCUA created an inventory of all known lead water service piping between the water main and the shut-off valve at homes and businesses in the City of Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township. For the last 20 years, YCUA has made it standard practice to replace all non-copper water service piping with new copper pipe between the water main and shut-off valve as part of all water main replacement projects for the City of Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township.

YCUA Issues Statement on High Quality of Water in Ypsilanti Area (page 2)

Water service replacement work by YCUA is limited to the length of pipe between the water main and the shut-off valve at a property line. YCUA reports that it has limited information showing what the pipe material is on a property owner's side of a shut-off valve. However, if non-copper piping, such as galvanized or lead pipes, is observed during a water main replacement project, the property owner is notified in writing. Those notifications include the recommendation that the property owner consider replacing the service pipe between the shut-off and the owner's building.

Another important fact about lead in drinking water is that homes built between 1982 and 1988 may have copper piping with lead-based solder at the joints. In 1986, Congress enacted the "lead ban," which mandated that any installation or repair of drinking water plumbing connected to a public water system must be completed with "lead-free materials". By law, plumbing fixtures such as brass faucets, fittings, and valves purchased after January 2014 must contain only very low levels of lead.

For customers who have older homes that may have lead service or copper pipes with lead solder, YCUA advises that the potential for lead and copper in drinking water can be minimized, when water has been sitting for several hours, by flushing the tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using the water for drinking or cooking.

YCUA's most recent 2014 Consumer Confidence Water Quality Report can be viewed online by visiting <http://www.ycua.org/waterreport.pdf>. YCUA's 2015 report will be completed and widely published and circulated in mid-2016. DWSD's 2014 report can be viewed online at <http://www.detroitmi.gov/Portals/0/docs/DWSD/Water%20Quality%20Reports/2014WaterQualityReport.pdf>

Anyone concerned or who has questions about their drinking water may contact YCUA at 734-484-4600 ext. 300.

Residents who wish to have their water tested privately can contact the National Test Lab in Ypsilanti, Michigan by calling 800-458-3330 ext. 3. The fee is approximately \$45. There are also several online home test kits available for \$10 to \$30.

The USEPA has a detailed [list of recommendations](#) for those concerned about lead in their drinking water and maintains a Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.
