



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of East Moline Issues Lead Exceedance Notice for Some Private Properties

Lead exposure in drinking water linked to privately-owned service lines; replacement program underway

East Moline, IL – The City of East Moline is issuing a public notice after recent drinking water monitoring identified elevated lead levels in some privately-owned homes and buildings. **These results are specific to certain locations and do not indicate a system-wide drinking water issue.** The city’s water continues to meet all state and federal standards when it leaves the Water Filtration Plant.

In East Moline, elevated lead levels are primarily associated with older, privately owned lead and galvanized service lines and in-home plumbing materials, particularly in buildings constructed before 1986. Because these service lines are privately owned, removing them requires coordination with property owners and cannot be completed all at once.

To address this issue, the city is actively implementing its **Get the Lead Out program** — a city-led initiative focused on eliminating lead exposure from drinking water associated with privately-owned lead and galvanized service lines. The program is guided by the city’s Lead Service Line Replacement Plan, which includes creating a complete inventory of service line materials, prioritizing replacements, securing funding, improving communication and sampling reliability, and systematically replacing lead service lines whenever feasible.

The city’s service line inventory estimates that there are approximately 2,000 privately owned lead service lines in East Moline. Through the *Get the Lead Out* program, 277 have already been replaced, and the city is working toward completing the remaining replacements by the end of 2028.

Removing all sources of exposure to lead in drinking water is a multi-year partnership between the city and homeowners. While the city is coordinating the replacement of lead and galvanized service lines, homeowners should have their home’s internal plumbing materials evaluated by a licensed plumber to determine if there are other sources of lead in the home’s plumbing. Common examples include lead in brass fixtures such as faucets and valves, and copper pipes with lead solder.

Residents who are concerned about their drinking water should visit www.eastmoline.com/461/Get-The-Lead-Out and follow the guidance provided including taking recommended steps to reduce exposure if applicable. These include flushing cold water taps after periods of non-use, using cold water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula, cleaning faucet aerators, using certified water filters, and learning what material their



service line and plumbing materials are made of. Families with young children are encouraged to consult healthcare providers regarding blood lead testing.

More information about lead in drinking water, the city's service line inventory, and the city's *Get the Lead Out* program is available at www.eastmoline.com/461/Get-The-Lead-Out or by contacting the city's Water Filtration Plant.

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT LEAD IN DRINKING WATER AT SOME EAST MOLINE PROPERTIES

Recent drinking water quality monitoring conducted by the City of East Moline Water Filtration Plant has found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings. You may have participated in this sampling event or have otherwise tested your home's drinking water for lead. It is important to understand that lead results are specific to individual homes/buildings and results vary from one location to another. If you participated in the city's sampling event, results have already been mailed to you, regardless of if the result was elevated or not.

What Happened?

The city has worked with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for about 30 years to conduct lead monitoring. We've found that homes having lead service lines or lead in the home's internal plumbing components are more likely to have lead in drinking water. Therefore, homes having a lead service line were selected for long-term monitoring so we can observe lead levels throughout the city over time. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has an action level for lead that requires that no more than 10% of the homes tested be above 15 parts per billion (ppb). During the July 2025-December 2025 monitoring period, we collected 60 samples and analyzed them for lead. The results of more than 10% of these samples exceeded the action level for lead. **This does not mean that every property that receives drinking water from the City of East Moline has lead in the drinking water.** It does mean that property owners should understand what material their service line and internal plumbing components are made of, and how to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water. Keep in mind that drinking water is not the only potential source of lead exposure, since lead can be found in air, soil, and paint.

What is an Action Level?

The lead action level is a measure of the effectiveness of corrosion control treatment in water systems. The action level is not a standard for establishing a safe level of lead in a home. To check if corrosion control is working, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires water systems to test for lead at the tap in certain homes with lead service lines. Systems compare sample results to the EPA's action level of 15 ppb. If 10% of the samples from these homes have concentrations that are greater than 15 ppb, then the water system must perform actions to educate the public and reduce exposure to lead in drinking water.

Health Effects of Lead

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems.



What is Being Done?

The city has been actively working to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water for the past several years. The actions that we are taking are following federal and state regulations.

Steps we have already taken include:

- The city continues to provide corrosion control treatment to reduce the amount of lead that can enter the drinking water from lead service lines.
- Creating a service line material inventory. Our service line inventory map can be found here: www.eastmoline.com/leadmap.
- Sending annual notifications to residents that have a known lead or galvanized service line, as well as to residents that the city does not know the materials of the service line and therefore cannot say for sure that it is not lead or galvanized. If your service line material is unknown by the city, we will happily come out to your home and identify the material for you for free. Please call 309-752-1540 to learn more and schedule a free consultation.
- Continued ongoing monitoring of lead in drinking water.
- Created a lead service line replacement program (*Get the Lead Out*), which can be found here: www.eastmoline.com/leadplan.
- Replacing lead and galvanized service lines that are encountered as part of city construction projects.
- Created a plan and is seeking funding to replace the rest of the lead and galvanized service lines in the city, beginning in 2026 with a target to finish in 2028.
- Providing water pitcher filters to residents with lead in drinking water results greater than 15 ppb.
- Created a transition plan for switching from pH adjustment to phosphate adjustment for corrosion control.

In addition to the information mentioned in this notice that we will provide to residents at locations we sampled, we also have additional public education information on our website at www.eastmoline.com/461/Get-The-Lead-Out.

STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO REDUCE YOUR EXPOSURE TO LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

If the level of lead found in your home's drinking water is above 15 ppb or if you are concerned about the lead levels at your location, there are several things you can do, separately or in combination, to reduce your exposure to lead. This list includes where you may find more information and is not intended to be a complete list or to imply that all actions equally reduce lead exposure from drinking water.

- **Run your water to flush out lead.** If water has not been used for several hours, run cold water at the tap, take a shower, or do laundry or dishes before using water for drinking or cooking. This helps flush out water that may contain lead.
- **Use cold water for drinking, cooking, and baby formula.** Lead dissolves more easily in hot water. Always use cold water and heat it if needed. Boiling water does not remove lead.
- **Clean your faucet aerators.** Remove and clean the small screen at the end of your faucet regularly. Lead particles and debris can collect there.



- **Use a water filter certified to remove lead.** Look for filters certified by NSF/ANSI for lead removal. Follow the manufacturer's instructions and replace filters on schedule. Do not run hot water through the filter. Learn more at: www.epa.gov/water-research
- **Find out what your service line is made of.** The service line is the pipe that brings water from the City's main to your home or building. To learn if it contains lead, contact the City at 309-752-1540 or ask a licensed plumber.
- **Check your home's plumbing and fixtures.** Older plumbing materials and fixtures may contain lead. A plumber can inspect your home and identify potential sources.
- **Watch for nearby construction activity.** Ground vibrations from construction can sometimes disturb older pipes and temporarily increase lead levels.
- **Test your water for lead.** If you would like to have your water tested for lead, please contact the laboratory of your choice for instructions, sampling requirements and cost. The local laboratories include:

QC Environmental
17048 215th Street
Davenport, IA 52806
Phone: 563-386-7827
<http://www.qcenvironmental.com/>

Please note that the City of East Moline does not endorse any particular vendor, organization, or agency. All information is provided as a courtesy to our customers.

If you have a child and are concerned about their potential lead exposure, it is recommend to have a blood lead test performed on them. This can be done at your child's doctor's office, and may be offered at your local health department or WIC office as well.

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.

For more information call Bob Bohannon, Sandra Reich, or Brianna Huber at the City of East Moline Water Filtration Plant at 309-752-1520 or visit www.eastmoline.com/461/Get-The-Lead-Out.

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