

Drinking Water Quality Update

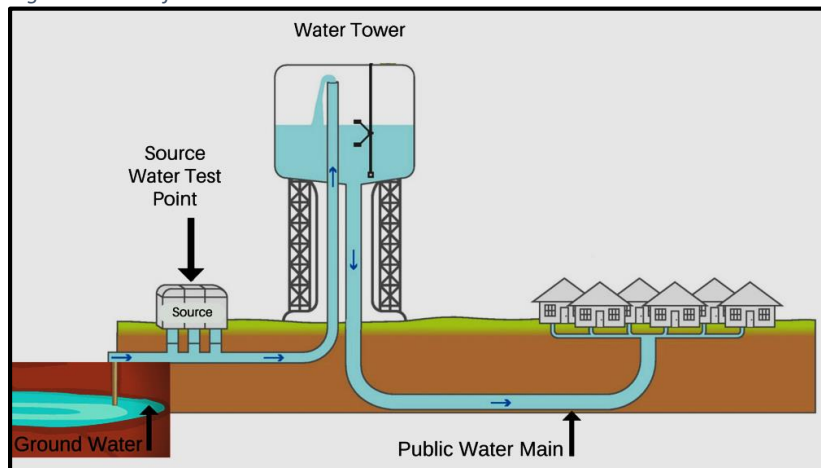
February 11, 2016

With much of the country now focused on the quality and safety of Flint’s drinking water, it is important for Grand Ledge residents to be aware of the continuous and careful measures taken by the Department of Public Services (DPS) to ensure the City’s water is clean and safe.

The City of Grand Ledge, with 47 miles of water mains, has maintained *annual* compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Act. On February 3, 2016 DPS initiated a voluntary testing of the City’s two drinking water sources and received **“Not Detected”** for the results reflecting lead levels *below* 1 parts

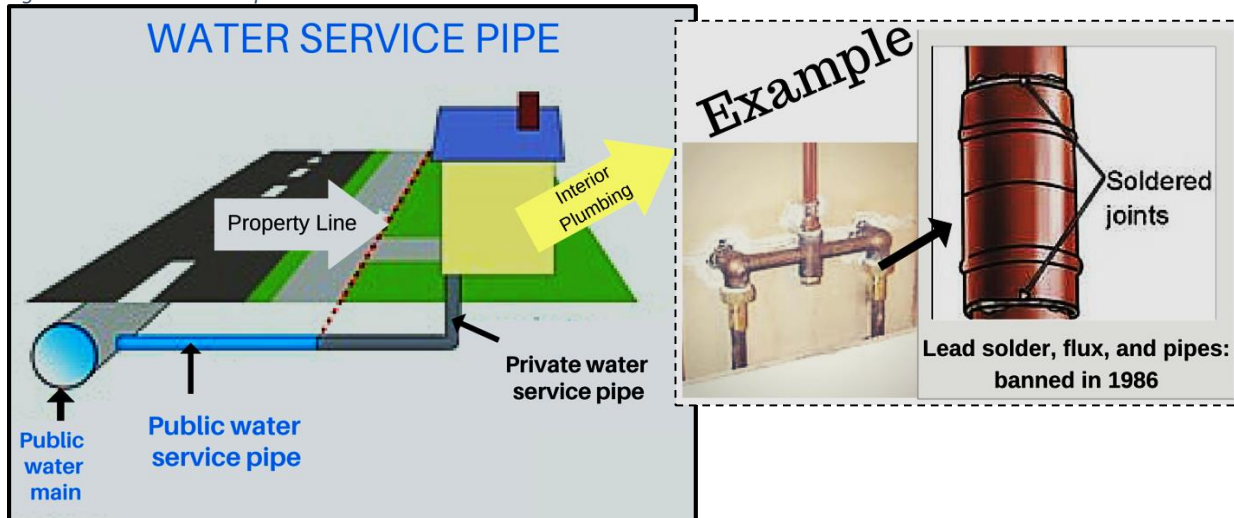
per billion (ppb), well under the United States Federal Action Level of 15 ppb. See Fig. 1 for an example of where ground water is pulled and tested before it travels into the public water main. For sampling data and additional information on the City’s water quality, please visit www.grand-ledge.com to read the most recent [Water Quality Report](#) or stop by City Hall, open Monday – Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm, for a printed copy.

Figure 1: Flow of Tested Water



In 1986, the Safe Water Drinking Act of 1974 was amended to ban lead in solder (a fusible mix of metals, or alloy, that is melted to join metallic surfaces), flux (material that allows the solder to adhere to the metal piping when joined at high temperatures), and pipes. Homes built before 1986 or homes that had plumbing work done prior to 1986 may have lead in components of pipes or fittings, see Fig. 2.

Figure 2: Water Service Pipe



The City of Grand Ledge has been testing an average of 20 sites at the highest risk for lead, as determined by the EPA and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), every one to three years since 1992. In all instances, these tests have been found in compliance with water quality standards, including lead levels that have not reached above the Federal Action Level of 15 ppb. While lead has not been detected in the City's source water, there have been instances where lead was detected through testing individual customer taps. Grand Ledge is responsible for supplying high-quality, safe drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components for individual homeowners.

As indicated in the City's most recent Water Quality Report, the reported lead level range is less than 3 and up to 10 (<3-10) ppb. The range of <3-10 ppb is based on samples obtained from 22 locations within the City determined to be of highest risk for lead. Samples indicated: 9 locations (41%) were less than 3 ppb and therefore less than the level of detection, and; 13 locations (59%) were between 3 and 10 ppb. No samples exceeded the Federal Action Level of 15 ppb.

For homeowners with questions about the quality of water in their home, the City recommends the following resources:

- The Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/your-drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-hotline>
- MDEQ Drinking Water Laboratory, www.michigan.gov/deq
- MDEQ [Frequently Asked Questions Drinking Water Laboratory](#) or 517-335-8184 to request a sample bottle and instructions
 - MDEQ charges \$18 for each drinking water lead test

While lead in drinking water is a hot topic, the most common threat of lead exposure still remains in the residual lead-based paint that was used in many homes built prior to 1978, the year lead paint was banned. Especially in older housing stock, lead dust can be released by friction from opening and closing windows and doors that may have been painted with lead-based paint. If you are concerned about the possibility of lead-based paint in your home, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention provides additional information and testing resources at <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/tips.htm>.

The City of Grand Ledge will continue dedicated practices that follow federal and state requirements to deliver safe, high-quality drinking water to everyone in our community. If you have concerns, questions, or comments about the quality of the water in Grand Ledge, please contact our Public Services Department at 517-627-2144. As part of maintaining compliance with the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Act, Grand Ledge annually publishes a drinking Water Quality Report. These reports are published by June 30 of each year to reflect the water quality from the previous calendar year. Then next water report will be posted by June 30, 2016 to reflect calendar year 2015. Please check the City's website at www.grand-ledge.com and City Hall for updated copies.