

News from the Source

LCA Customer Newsletter - ALLENTOWN DIVISION

Información importante de su compañía de agua.

LCA Water Supply Meets Health Standards for Lead Exposure

Lehigh County's Authority's primary concern is providing our customers with high-quality, affordable water. However, concerns have been raised recently about the safety of LCA's water following national media coverage about the risk of lead exposure from tap water and other sources.

One news report showed that children in Allentown have the highest levels of lead in their blood as compared to children in 17 other Pennsylvania cities.

Health officials have explained that lead exposure in Allentown is due primarily to lead-based paint used in homes constructed more than 30 years ago.

While LCA's water quality has not been shown to contribute significantly to the high lead exposure among children in Allentown, it is important for customers to be aware of the risks.

Drinking water can contribute to lead exposure as water passes through lead pipes, brass plumbing fixtures and other plumbing that contains lead solder. To mitigate these risks, LCA takes important steps to ensure the safety of our tap water.

Water testing

One of the things we do is routine monitoring. Our most recent tests show that LCA's water meets all federal and state health standards for acceptable levels of lead exposure, and we're planning another round of tests from July through September. Results will be posted in the fall.

In addition, at its water treatment plant in Allentown as well as at other water supply sites throughout the service area, LCA treats its water with small doses of sodium hydroxide to slightly adjust the pH of the water, which further prevents corrosion of lead and copper from plumbing fixtures into the drinking water.

An important aspect of LCA's water supply is the natural "hardness" of the water. Hard water is found throughout Lehigh County and contains high levels of naturally occurring – and healthful – minerals such as calcium and magnesium. These minerals are often the source of complaints from customers who dislike the white residue that can build up on plumbing fixtures. However, calcium deposits inside plumbing provide great protection against lead exposure because the coating inside of the pipes can prevent direct exposure of the water to

Your Water Quality Report is Now Available

Each year, Lehigh County Authority provides its customers with an annual Water Quality Report to let them know how our water quality stacks up against established federal and state drinking water standards. We encourage you to review this report as it provides details about the source and quality of the drinking water delivered to your community in 2015.

In an effort to be more environmentally responsible, we are making the reports available online. Please visit us online to view the report for our Allentown Division:

www.lehighcountyauthority.org/wp-content/uploads/ALD.pdf.

If you wish to have a paper copy, you can print one directly from the website. You can also receive a printed version by contacting us at 610-437-7515.

Attention landlords, businesses, schools and other groups!

Please share this information with tenants, students and other water users at your location who are not billed customers of Lehigh County Authority.

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre se agua potable. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo intenda bien.

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Contacting LCA:

Online: www.lehighcountyauthority.org

Phone: 610-437-7515

Visit: 1300 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive

Allentown, PA 18101

Mail: PO Box 3758

Allentown, PA 18106

Email: cityservice@lehighcountyauthority.org

Hours: 8:15 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. weekdays

2016 Water System Flushing Schedule

Lehigh County Authority (LCA) will complete systemwide flushing of the water system in Allentown during the spring and summer months. This is an important maintenance program that helps to ensure your water system is maintaining proper disinfection, and to clean out the water lines in your neighborhood.

What should you do when LCA is flushing in your area?

If you see a crew flushing a hydrant on your street, avoid running tap water, using the washing machine, or running the dishwasher until the flushing is complete to avoid drawing discolored water into your home plumbing. If possible, completely avoid using your hot water as this may draw discolored water into your hot water heater allowing the discoloration to persist for long periods of time. After the flushing has completed in your area, turn on your cold water tap. If you encounter discolored water, shut the water off and wait several minutes before you turn on your cold water tap again.

Safety Notice: If you see hydrant flushing crews working in the area, please drive carefully and treat them like any other road construction crew.

Brown Water Notice: Discoloration of your water after system flushing only affects the appearance of the water. There is no health risk associated with the discoloration of water after system flushing.

Schedule: The 2016 flushing schedule is shown below and should be considered as tentative depending on the weather. Unless otherwise noted, flushing will occur during daytime hours.

April 11–April 24: Ward 17 West Allentown, north of Hamilton, west of 22nd Street

April 25–May 1: Ward 8 and Ward 11 North Allentown, north of Gordon Street, between 7th and 22nd Streets

May 2–May 15: Ward 12 South Allentown, south of Little Lehigh Creek and west of the railroad tracks, from Trout Creek Park to Bicentennial Park and on to the Queen City Airport area

May 16–May 22: Ward 1, 2, 5 and 4 Center City, both north and south of Hamilton, between 4th and 9th Streets

May 23–May 29: Ward 10 North Allentown, east of 7th Street, between Liberty Street and Sumner Avenue

May 30–June 5: Ward 8 North Allentown, west of 7th Street, between Liberty Street and Sumner Avenue

June 6–June 12: Ward 9 and Ward 6 Center City, north of Hamilton, east of Law Street and following north along the Lehigh River

June 13–June 19: Ward 14 East Allentown, east of the Lehigh River, from Keck Park north up to the East Side Fire Station

June 20–July 10: Ward 15 (Minus high elevation system) East Allentown, north and east of the East Side Fire station, and then south toward the Allentown State Hospital area



July 11–July 17: Ward 16 (Minus high elevation system) South Allentown, south of the Lehigh River and east of the railroad tracks, south down to Chapel Avenue

July 18–July 31: Ward 19 (Minus high elevation system) South Allentown, south and east of Trout Creek Park, down to the South Mountain Reservoir and Park area

After these areas are completed, the high elevation system will be flushed at night from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

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the pipe lining.

Some customers do face a higher risk of lead exposure depending on the plumbing materials in their home — like brass fixtures and lead solder. Some customers who have water softeners installed may be adjusting the chemistry of their own tap water, which, if the home has any lead in its plumbing, can result in different levels of lead leaching.

Older homes

Additionally, some homes built more than 40 years ago may have their water delivered through a lead service line.

While LCA replaces its portion of lead service lines routinely during water main replacement projects and other work in older commu-

nities, homeowners are responsible for replacing service lines and any internal plumbing fixtures. None of LCA's approximately 600 miles of water mains are made of lead.

LCA encourages all customers to become informed about the risk of exposure to lead for their children.

If you are worried about lead in your lines, you can install a water filter (at your own cost) that services your entire house, or install individual filters on your faucets.

You can also have your water tested, at your own cost, to see if it contains lead. There are a number of licensed plumbers in the region who can perform this service if you are unable to do it yourself.

Customers with questions about lead in their drinking water are encouraged to contact LCA.