Getting Clean Water to Flint

Where the system is now

Flint residents are using filtered or bottled water for consumption.

A corrosion inhibitor is added to the water supply to create orthophosphates to help build a protective scale on pipes.

Disinfectant is added to prevent bacterial growth.

Water sampling will help EPA understand and monitor the recovery of the system, disinfection levels and corrosion control effectiveness.

Where it needs to be for system recovery

Ensure drinking water treatment plant has the resources it needs

Water adequately treated at the plant

System properly maintained

Ongoing monitoring of water quality

Clean drinkable water

Lake Huron

Treatment plant

Water mains

Service lines

Run water for up to 5 mins every day

March 12, 2016
**Lead in Drinking Water**

Lead enters drinking water when pipes and other plumbing components that contain lead corrode. Water utilities use corrosion control strategies to provide a protective coating (containing orthophosphates) in the plumbing. Due to Flint’s recent return to using water from the Great Lakes Water Authority, the protective coating within service lines will build up over time to appropriate levels. EPA is currently collecting samples to determine the effectiveness of the corrosion control measures being taken.

**How Do Orthophosphates Coat and Protect Water Pipes?**

1. Corrosion control chemicals such as phosphoric acid are added to the water supply at the treatment facility.
2. A chemical reaction occurs, bonding orthophosphates to the lead.
3. This bond forms a protective coating—a layer inside water pipes.
4. This coating reduces lead levels from the drinking water.

**Important Resources for Flint Residents**

**Medical Questions**

**Rashes:** You can contact your primary care provider and call 2-1-1

**Blood tests:** You can contact your primary care provider, or call 810-257-3833

**Appearance or odor of your water**

Call Flint Water Plant: 810-787-6537

**Questions about safe water**

- email flintwater@epa.gov
- visit www.epa.gov/Flint
- call EPA’s hotline: 810-434-5122

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