



Working with Residents to Get Cleaner Water to Benton Harbor

How does this action help protect me from lead in water?



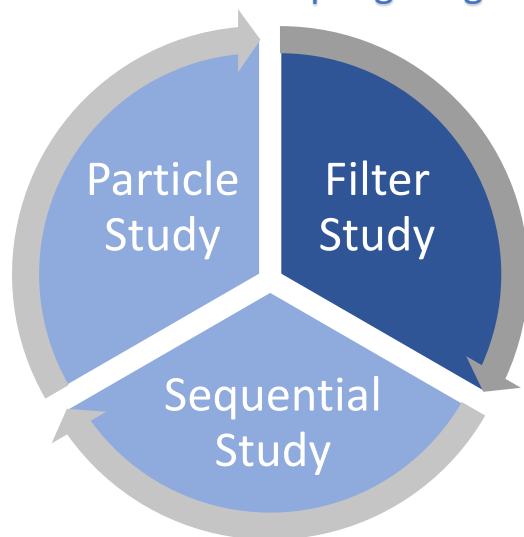
Water sampling will help EPA understand if lead is present in your water, where it comes from, the size of lead particles and how well filters work at reducing lead in Benton Harbor.

EPA's highest priority is protecting people from exposure to lead in drinking water. A key step to learning more about Benton Harbor's drinking water is conducting three important studies to understand:

1. Are certified filters working as expected to reduce lead? (**Filter Study**)
2. What are the sources of lead in Benton Harbor's drinking water? Are certain pipes or plumbing fixtures increasing the lead in your drinking water? (**Sequential Study**)
3. How much lead is present and in what forms? Is lead mostly found in large particles or is it dissolved in the water? (**Particle Study**)

To learn more about what EPA is doing, in addition to these studies, visit: epa.gov/mi/benton-harbor-drinking-water

EPA's Water Sampling Programs



Can EPA sample my home?

EPA will be sampling for the next several weeks through November and December 2021. While EPA has already identified homes for the

sequential and particle sampling, you may be eligible for having your filter sampled, at no cost to you, if you meet the following criteria:

- **Do not have** a whole house filter, reverse osmosis, or cold-water line water softener.
- Currently have a pitcher filter or faucet-mounted filter certified to reduce lead in your home.

- Have 30 minutes available between 7:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday to let in our sample team.

If you meet the above criteria, please call 269-248-2195 to learn more and schedule an appointment.



When will I know my results?

EPA will provide the results of your filter test as soon as they are available.

November 2021



Can I learn more about EPA's studies?

1. Filter Study

The purpose of the Filter Study is to determine if certified filters are working as expected to reduce lead.

- Drinking water will be sampled for lead (and other metals) before and after passing through certified faucet and pitcher filters.
- Samples will be collected from all filter brands currently being provided in Benton Harbor.
- Samples will be collected from hundreds of homes so that enough analysis is conducted to ensure confidence in the results.

2. Sequential Study

The purpose of the Sequential Study is to determine if lead is present in a home's water and if it's coming from the home's plumbing or water service line.

- The lab results for lead and other metals will inform EPA and the home occupants what the source of lead is. For example, lead may be coming from the fixtures (faucets), pipe solder (used to hold pipes together), or in the service line connecting the home to the city's water main.
- This study will assist with identifying solutions to address any sources of lead that may be found in your home.
- Samples will be collected from up to 50 homes for this study.

3. Particle Study

The purpose of the Particle Study is to determine how much lead is present in small particles in drinking water.

- The study will better inform EPA and the community if the lead is dissolved in water or if it's coming from particles that have broken off from pipes.
- Samples will be collected from up to 50 homes for this study.



Are filters safe to use in my home?

Certified filters that are properly installed and maintained are very effective in reducing lead concentrations in drinking water, according to the most recent science and studies.

Out of an abundance of caution, EPA is evaluating the state of the science and acting to further understand filter effectiveness in relation to Benton Harbor's specific water chemistry. This study is one of the many ways that EPA is working with the community and local and state partners to evaluate public health risks from lead exposure. The agency will continue to be involved to support and monitor the effectiveness of the immediate interventions and development of long-term solutions in Benton Harbor.

Important Resources for Benton Harbor Residents

Please continue to follow the State and City recommendations regarding water use.

Bottled Water Resources

Call 2-1-1 or Visit [Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe](https://www.michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe)

Berrien County Health Department's water hotline: 800-815-5485, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For questions about lead, MDHHS can be reached at 866-691-5323 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.