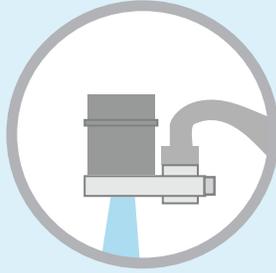




# Properly Used Filters Protect Benton Harbor Residents from Lead in Drinking Water

**These filters are certified to reduce lead and are available at no cost to residents.**

NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for lead reduction  
NSF/ANSI Standard 42 for particulate reduction



Point of Use Filter



Pitcher Filter

## Do's & Don'ts of Filters

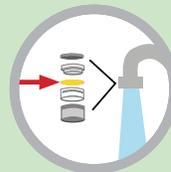
In late 2021, EPA tested filters in Benton Harbor and found when used properly, they were very effective at reducing lead. EPA has the following list of Do's and Don'ts to help you know the best practices in using this equipment.

### DO

- ✓ **Do use a certified filter to remove lead.**  
*NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for lead reduction  
NSF/ANSI Standard 42 for particulate reduction*
- ✓ **Do change replaceable cartridge when indicator\* turns red.**
  - **Green** = cartridge working
  - **Yellow** = change cartridge soon
  - **Red** = change cartridge now

*\*indicators will vary. See your filter guide or manual.*
- ✓ **Do follow the manufacturer's instruction guide or manual for filter use and maintenance.**
- ✓ **Do run cold water through the faucet filter for 5 seconds before drinking or cooking.**
- ✓ **Do continue to follow drinking water recommendations from local and state health agencies.**

- ✓ **Do run cold water if the water has not been used for several hours to make sure there is fresh water in the pipes. Generally, running a load of laundry, flushing a toilet a couple times, or running an unfiltered faucet for 3-5 minutes will meet this recommendation.**
- ✓ **Do regularly inspect and clean aerators and filters on faucets.**



#### Every Week

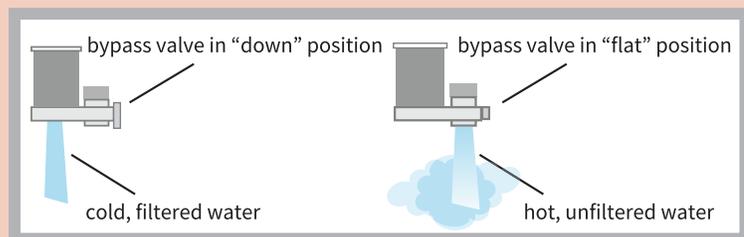
Clean the aerators in all faucets and clean the screens in your water filters.



Remove faucet filter unit, turn up-side-down and gently tap out any debris.

### DON'T

- ✗ **DON'T USE HOT WATER**  
use the bypass valve when using your faucet filter, and never put hot water in a pitcher filter.



Scan this QR code to watch this video on proper water use and filter maintenance

Learn more about EPA's work in Benton Harbor by visiting [www.epa.gov/mi/benton-harbor-drinking-water](http://www.epa.gov/mi/benton-harbor-drinking-water)

# EPA's filter study in Benton Harbor confirms that certified filters are effective at reducing lead in drinking water

## UNFILTERED

## FILTERED



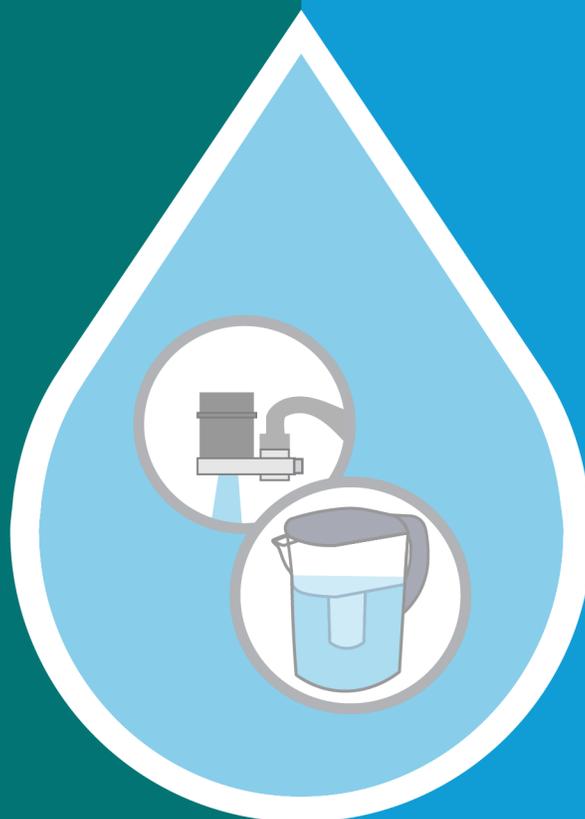
Homes Sampled

**45 homes**

had unfiltered drinking water samples come back with lead detected above above 5 parts per billion, the standard for lead reduction for certified filters

**0 homes**

had filtered drinking water samples above 5 parts per billion



NSF/ANSI 53 certifies these filters reduce lead to 5 ppb or less.



Scan this QR code to learn more about EPA's drinking water studies in Benton Harbor, or visit

<https://www.epa.gov/mi/benton-harbor-michigan-drinking-water-study-results>