

your leader in lead information

H2Oconnection

SPRING 2017



A Service of The City of Cincinnati
GREATER CINCINNATI
WATER WORKS

CHECK OUT OUR NEW LOOK & GET ANSWERS ABOUT LEAD

Did you know you can find a wealth of information regarding lead on our website?

Lead.myGCWW.org

USE our interactive map to determine the water service line material in your home or business.

REQUEST a free Lead Test Kit to have your water analyzed by our certified lab.

FIND the lead sample results for many local school districts.

WATCH a video to learn how to perform a water service line scratch test.

SIGN UP to learn more information about potential lead line customer assistance programs as details become available.

PROVIDE feedback to Lead@gcww.cincinnati-oh.gov – let us know what you would like to learn about, so we can provide information that is important to you!



Potential Sources of Lead in Water



There is no lead in finished water leaving the treatment plant or in the distribution water mains. Lead can be leached into water from household plumbing, such as:

- Solder
- Brass
- Fittings
- Faucets
- Service Line Material

Replacement of plumbing fixtures that contain lead, and plumbing containing lead solder will help reduce/remove potential risks of lead (based on lead sample results).

Request a lead test kit or use our interactive Lead Map to check the material of your water service line at: Lead.myGCWW.org

If you have any questions, please call: 513-651-LEAD (5323)



Have you Returned Your Lead Sample Kit?

The Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW) has sent out a number of lead sample kits that have not been returned. As reflected in the graph, blue represents the lead test kits sent and orange represents the lead test kits returned.

There is still time to have your water sampled!

💧 If you took a sample over a week ago and never requested a pick-up, we are happy to send you a new bottle.

- Contact us and we will send you a new sample bottle.
- Please do not dispose of the old sample bottle, just pour the water out and write "USED" on the label.
- When you take your new sample and request a pick-up, leave the old bottle with it so it can be picked up and reused.
- Simply leave the sample in the box on your front porch and contact us (see instructions below).

💧 Do you have a sample bottle and never took a sample?

- Let the water sit for at least 6 hours prior to sampling, then fill the bottle (as the first draw of the day) to the shoulder or line on the bottle.
- Leave the box on your front porch and contact us (see instructions below).

💧 Did you request a Lead Test Kit and no longer have possession of the bottle?

- You can request another Lead Test Kit. Let us know that the original sample bottle is no longer available and make a request for another Lead Test Kit.

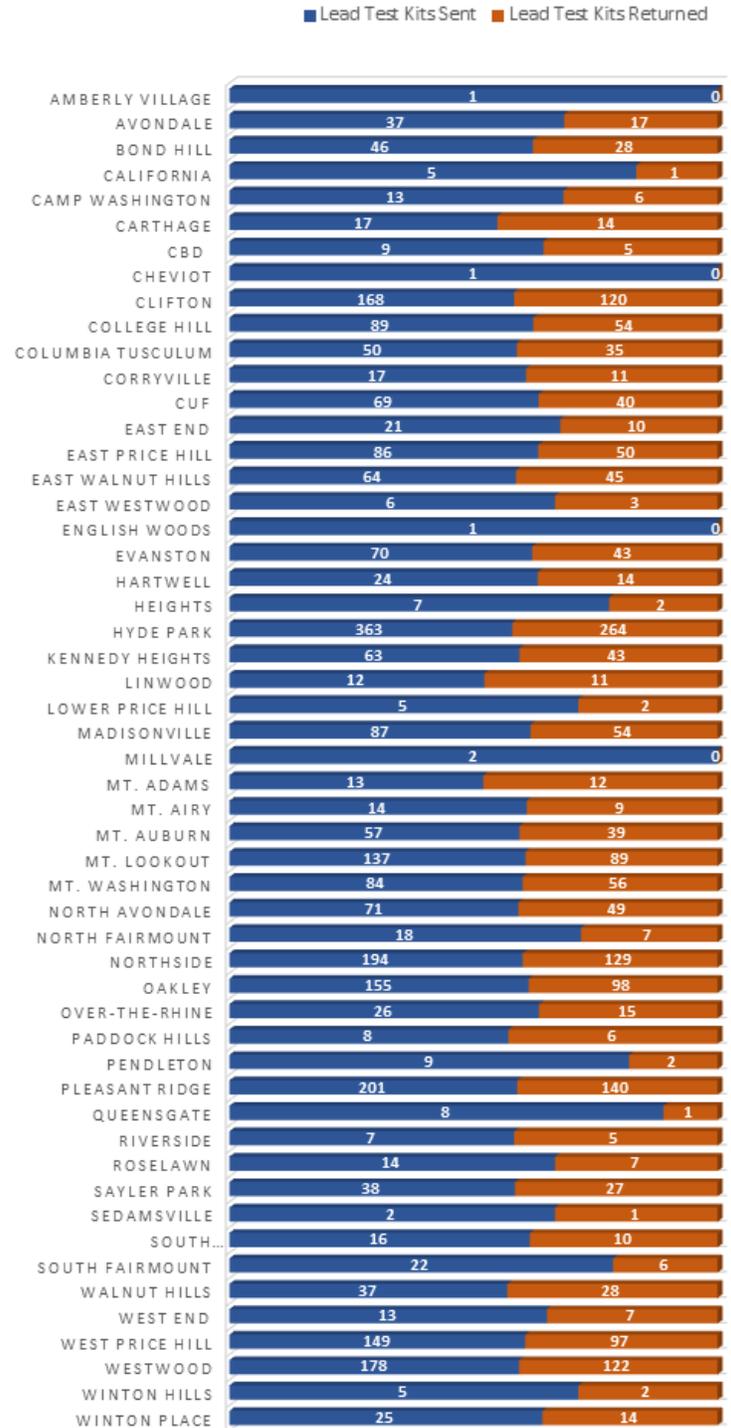
Sample Pick-up Instructions

Text: (513) 490-5786 with your address and leave the water sample(s) on your front porch*

Leave a message at: (513) 490-5786 with your address and leave the water sample(s) on your front porch

The sample will be picked up within 2 business days and the test results will be mailed to you in approximately 21 business days, upon completion. If you have any questions, please call **(513) 651-LEAD (5323)**

*GCWW will not charge any fees for this service. The standard data fees & text message rates may apply based on your plan with your carrier.





WORKING FOR LEAD-SAFE FACILITIES UPDATE

Over the next two months, Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW) will be wrapping up lead water sampling at schools for the 2016-2017 school year. In order for the test results to reflect an accurate representation of the lead content in water, the samples can only be taken during months when school is in session. Sampling will begin again in September 2017. To date, we have completed the sampling and testing at 34 schools. The results are posted on our website at Lead.myGCWW.org.

GCWW continues to work with child care providers to sample and test water for lead. Eliminating sources of lead are very positive steps that show your child care is being proactive in protecting the health of children.

During the last several months, 25 child care providers have contacted GCWW to request lead sample kits. They are in varying stages of the sampling and testing process. Once the sampling and testing process is complete, the child care provider will receive their results in writing and can share them with parents.

Completed Lead Testing and Sampling During the 2016-2017 School Year

- ✓ 13 Archdiocese of Cincinnati
- ✓ 14 Cincinnati Public Schools
- ✓ 4 Forest Hills School District
- ✓ 3 Other/Independent Schools



Do you own or use a Child Care Facility?

For more information or to obtain your free lead sampling kit, contact:

Kathleen Frey at (513) 591-5068
Kathleen.frey@gcww.cincinnati-oh.gov

Jim Nelson at (513) 591-6869
James.nelson@gcww.cincinnati-oh.gov

Cincinnati Recreation Commission (CRC):

GCWW is actively working with 23 recreation centers to test each center's indoor drinking water and cooking outlets water for lead. Lead sample kits are now in the process of being sent to each location so that the water can be sampled and analyzed for the presence of lead. During the summer months, GCWW will sample and test the CRC's outdoor locations.

Cincinnati Fire Department:

The Cincinnati Fire Department is in the process of sampling water for lead at all fire house locations. Out of 26 fire houses, 9 have taken samples and the water is currently being analyzed for lead. The other 17 are still the in process of gathering the samples.

Other City Buildings:

Centennial II and City Hall have taken samples and received the results of the lead analysis. The groups we would like to test next are libraries and the Health Department buildings.

The Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW) is leading a new 15-year Lead Service Line (LSL) replacement program to help create a lead-safe city. The LSL program will include complete lead service line replacement of approximately 15,000 public-side water service lines and 27,000 private-side water service lines within the City of Cincinnati. Plumbers are needed to assist with this program and will work in conjunction with GCWW staff to replace private-side lead service lines throughout the 52 neighborhoods within the city.

An informal meeting was held with local plumbers on May 3, 2017.

To find out more information about doing business with the City at: <http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/inclusion/>





FROM THE DESK OF **JASON DELAET**

Enhanced Lead Program Manager



Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW) has been fully engaged in putting together the pieces of our Enhanced Lead Program. As part of the program, a Senior Lead Team was formed and has spent many hours working diligently over the past several months putting the program details together. **Their hard work and continuous efforts are being recognized.**

As a result, other utilities are beginning to take notice. **Many utilities across the country already know about the high quality water GCWW produces every day.** However, now they have become aware of our Enhanced Lead Program. During the last few months, water utility providers have reached out to GCWW to inquire about our program details. Cities such as Cleveland, Toledo, Middletown and even Buffalo, NY have all contacted GCWW for more information. GCWW has provided them with some history of lead in our service area and our plan to make Cincinnati, a lead-safe city. During conversations with these utilities, it has become apparent that Cincinnati is not the only city dealing with the issue of lead. Despite the challenges it is comforting to know that other utilities are taking the issue of lead as seriously, as GCWW.

As our Enhanced Lead Program continues to develop, GCWW anticipates other water utilities across the country will continue to reach out to us for information. As GCWW has always done in the past, we will continue to be good stewards in the water utility industry and are happy to share information. **Producing the highest quality of safe drinking water is our top priority** and anytime we can help other cities do the same, it is a positive for all.

LEAD BY THE NUMBERS*

Public-Side Active Lead Service Lines in the City of Cincinnati

1971: **26,584**

2017: **14,674**

Lead Test Kits Requested in 2017

A continuation of the Lead Test Kit Statistics broken down by month.



*Accurate as of 03.31.2017

Lead Poisoning Prevention

Since the crisis in Flint, Michigan, lead-in-water has received national attention. Lead poisoning causes permanent problems for young children by lowering IQ, creating learning disabilities, and brain impairment. In addition to possible lead exposure in a home's private plumbing, another source of lead is from paint. Contaminated dust resulting from deteriorated lead paint on homes is a significant cause of childhood lead poisoning. Common sources are old, wooden windows; painted porch railings and floors; and damaged walls and trim.

The good news is that childhood lead poisoning is entirely preventable! The Cincinnati Health Department Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CHD CLPPP) currently has \$1,000,000 remaining in federal funding to make homes lead-safe within the City of Cincinnati. Eligible homes are built before 1978 and have low-income families with young children, or a pregnant woman in residence or visiting frequently. Homes may be rental or owner-occupied; and, may be single- or multi-family. For qualified applicants, the program provides a free comprehensive lead paint inspection and risk assessment; and a 29-point Healthy Homes inspection. Funding is provided to correct lead hazards and certain other health and safety items.

For more information about creating a lead-safe home, call CHD CLPPP at 513-357-7420; or, go to the Cincinnati Health Department website at: <http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/health/>

For residents who do not live in the City of Cincinnati but reside in Hamilton County, call 513-946-7800; or go to the Hamilton County Public Health website at: <https://www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org/services/for-businesses/programs/waste-management/lead-poisoning-prevention/>