



Town of Oneonta

Water and Sewer Department

James Hurtubise, Water & Sewer Operator

3966 St Hwy 23 • PO Box A West Oneonta, NY 13861

Dear Woodland Water District Customers,

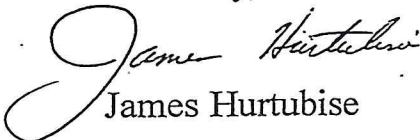
SOME HOMES IN THIS COMMUNITY HAVE ELEVATED LEAD LEVELS IN THEIR DRINKING WATER. LEAD CAN POSE A SIGNIFICANT RISK TO YOUR HEALTH PLEASE READ THE ENCLOSED NOTICE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Woodland Water Lead and Copper sampling results:

“Of the five samples reported, one exceeded the lead “action level” of 0.015 mg/l and none exceeded the copper “action level” of 1.3 mg/l. The 90th percentile level for lead was 0.015 mg/l and the 90th percentile level for copper was 0.645 m/l. Therefore, the “action level” for lead has been exceeded and you must initiate corrective and educational activities.”

Due to this elevated level the Town of Oneonta and the Dept. of Health will increase the monitoring and testing of the community throughout 2022 and take the appropriate measure to restore safe levels.

Sincerely,


James Hurtubise

Town of Oneonta- Water and Sewer Operator

607-432-2807

CWS – General Public Education Notice Template

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

Woodland water district found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and children 6 years and younger. Please read this notice closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

This notice is brought to you by TOWN OF ONEONTA, WOODLAND WATER DISTRICT.
State Water System ID# NY3810454
Date: 2/23/2022

Health Effects of Lead

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

Sources of Lead

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. Drinking water is one possible source of lead exposure. The primary source of lead exposure for most children is lead-based paint. Other sources of lead exposure include lead-contaminated dust or soil, and some plumbing materials. In addition, lead can be found in a number of consumer products, including certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics. Other sources include exposure in the work place (jobs that include house painting, plumbing, renovation, construction, auto repair, welding, electronics repair, jewelry or pottery repair) and exposure from certain hobbies (such as stained glass or pottery, fishing, making or shooting firearms and collecting lead or pewter figurines), as lead can be carried on clothing and shoes. Children's hands or their toys can come into contact with lead in paint, dust and soil. Therefore, washing children's hands and their toys will help reduce the potential for lead exposure from these sources.

Plumbing materials, including pipes, new brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," may contribute lead to drinking water. The law currently allows pipes, fittings, and fixtures with up to 0.25 percent weighted average of lead to be identified as "lead-free."

The Woodland water district community does not have any lead in its source water or water mains in the street. When water is in contact with pipes [or service lines] or plumbing that contains lead for several hours, the lead may enter drinking water.

Steps You Can Take To Reduce Your Exposure To Lead In Your Water

1. **Run your water to flush out lead.** Run water for 15-30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking, if it hasn't been used for several hours. This flushes lead-containing water from the pipes.

2. **Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
3. **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead.
4. **Replace your plumbing fixtures if they are found to contain lead.** Plumbing materials including brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as “lead-free,” may contribute lead to drinking water. The law previously allowed end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 8 percent lead to be labeled as “lead free.” As of January 4, 2014, end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, fittings and valves, must meet the new “lead-free” definition of having no more than 0.25 percent lead on a weighted average. Visit the National Sanitation Foundation website at:
http://www.nsf.org/newsroom_pdf/Lead_free_certification_marks.pdf to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures and how to identify lead-free certification marks on new fixtures.
5. **Use bottled water or use a water filter.** If your home is served by a lead service line, and/or if lead containing plumbing materials are found to be in your home, you may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or visit
<http://www.nsf.org/consumer-resources/what-is-nsf-certification/faucets-plumbing-certification/lead-older-homes>, for a consumer guide of approved water filters. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions to protect water quality. Any measure you take to reduce your exposure to lead should be continued until the lead source(s) has been minimized or eliminated.

Should you test your water for lead?

If lead-containing plumbing materials are identified in your home, you may want to consider testing your water for lead to determine how much lead is in your drinking water. Call us at 607-432-2807 to find out how to get your water tested for lead. There are multiple laboratories in the region that can test for lead such as CAN labs, Adirondack Labs, and Microbac labs.

Should your child be tested for lead?

New York Public Health Law requires primary health care providers to screen each child for blood lead levels at one and two years of age as part of routine well-child care. In addition, at each routine well-child visit, or at least annually if a child has not had routine well-child visits, primary health care providers assess each child who is at least six-months of age, but under six years of age, for high lead exposure. Each child found to be at risk for high lead exposure is screened or referred for lead screening.

If your child has not had routine well-child visits (since the age of one year) and you are concerned about lead exposure to your child, contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead.

What Happened? What is Being Done?

During the Woodland waters routine lead and copper sampling for 2021 five services were tested for lead and copper levels. Of the five samples reported, one exceeded the lead "action level" of 0.015 mg/l and none exceeded the copper "action level" of 1.3 mg/l. The 90th percentile level for lead was 0.015 mg/l and the 90th percentile level for copper was 0.645 m/l. Therefore, the "action level" for lead has been exceeded and you must initiate corrective and educational activities."

Due to this elevated level the Town of Oneonta and the Dept. of Health will increase the monitoring and testing of the community throughout 2022 and take the appropriate measure to restore safe levels. The number of samples will increase from 5 to 10 and be taken every 6 months until levels are reduced below the maximum allowed level.

The Woodland water district community was constructed without any lead services. The mains are mostly transite concrete pipe and plastic. The services are a mix of cooper and plastic services.

The Woodland water district has historically had below the minimum levels or not trace of lead in its system in the past. Neither the source nor the mains have any contact with lead. The most likely cause for the one high lead level sample was due to an inactive sample point that had not be flushed recently.

For More Information

Call us at 607-432-2807 or visit our website at townofoneonta.org. For more information on lead in drinking water, contact your local health department at State health department Oneonta district office 607-432-3911, or the New York State Department of Health directly by calling the toll-free number (within New York State) 1-800-458-1158, extension 27650, or out of state at (518) 402-7650, or by email at bpwsp@health.state.ny.us. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/lead, or call the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD.