



## *Information Leaflet Lead in Drinking Water*

Following recent sampling of water supplies in Waterford City by Waterford City Council, elevated levels of lead were detected in a number of samples in your area.

Part or all of the service pipes connecting the water main in the street to the kitchen tap in older buildings built prior to 1970 may be made of lead.

Boiling water does not remove lead.

Lead can build up in the body and can cause harm, particularly in young children and unborn babies.

**The water leaving the treatment plant does not contain lead and is of a very high quality.**

Further sampling of the drinking water in Waterford City is being conducted to investigate the extent of the problem to enable City Council come up with the most appropriate solution.

### **Advice to Consumers:**

- If your home was built prior to 1970 you are advised as a precaution to let the cold water kitchen tap run until it fills the kitchen sink, particularly first thing in the morning or if the water has been unused in the pipe for a period of 6 hours or more. Discard this water and the supply will then be safe for drinking and food preparation.
- Tap water is safe for bathing, showering, brushing teeth, washing dishes and clothes even if homes have lead service pipes.
- If you do choose to use bottled water to make up infant formula feeds, suitable bottled water includes brands having a sodium (Na) content of less than 20mg per litre. Commercial bottled water is not sterile and will need to be boiled in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

**Additional advice may be given to individual householders based on their water sample results.**

If you have further queries, please call the help line on 051 849563 or for further information and updates see [www.waterfordcity.ie](http://www.waterfordcity.ie)

## How Do I Know If There Are Lead Pipes In My Home?

If your home has been modernised since 1970 and all of its pipework replaced from the stop valve outside your home to the kitchen tap, there should be no lead pipe on your property.

If your home was built:

**before 1970 it may have lead pipes**

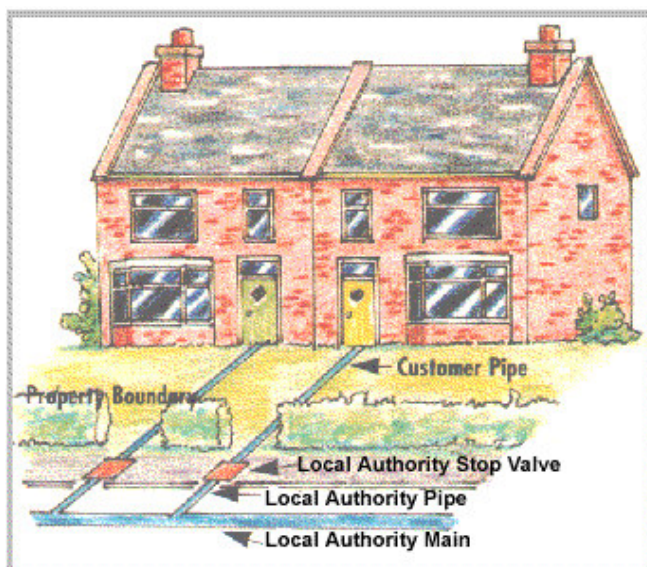
**after 1970 it is unlikely to have lead pipes**

If you are unsure, you can make a simple check:

Look in or behind the cupboards in your kitchen. You may also need to look in other places, e.g. the cupboard under the stairs. Find the pipe leading to the kitchen tap. Check if it is lead along as much of its length as possible. Unpainted lead pipes are dull grey. They are also soft. If you scrape the surface gently with a knife, you will see the shiny, silver-coloured metal beneath.

If in doubt, ask Waterford City Council for advice.

## Who Is Responsible For The Pipework?



The part of the service pipe which links the water main in the street to the stop valve outside your property belongs to Waterford City Council.

The part of the service pipe leading from the stop valve outside your property to the point where it enters your home is your responsibility if you are the owner, otherwise it is your landlord's.

If you have any lead pipework between the stop valve outside your home and your kitchen tap, the best solution is to replace it with copper or plastic pipework.

Make sure that removing lead water pipes does not reduce electrical safety by removing earthing. Ask your electricity supplier if in doubt.