



## STEP-BY-STEP

# How to check your plumbing.

Older plumbing and faucets could be made of or contain lead. That means lead can get into your tap water. The only sure way to know if there is lead in your water or pipes is by testing your water or finding a trusted professional to help inspect your home.

## CHECK YOUR FAUCETS

Go through your home and make a list of every faucet you use for drinking, cooking, brushing your teeth or giving to your pets. Check if there are any dates on the faucet or on the box it came in if you still have it.

### Was the faucet installed before 2014?

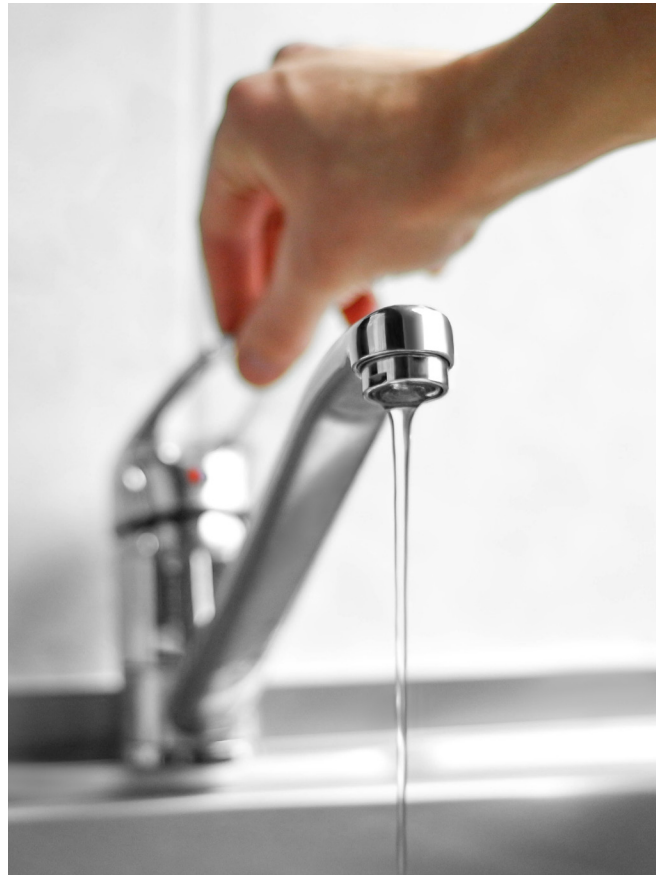
#### YES

It may contain lead and you should consider replacing your faucets.

#### I DON'T KNOW

- If you rent, ask your landlord or property owner if they know.
- **Still not sure?** Assume it was installed before 2014.

If any of your faucets were installed before 2014, think about replacing them. Look for faucets made after 2014, and make sure the box says it is **NSF/ANSI/CAN 61 certified** or contains 0.25% lead or less.



## CHECK YOUR PIPES

To test the pipe that brings water into your home, you need a key or coin and a small magnet, like one from your refrigerator.

If your water comes from a **community water supply**, like a public utility, find the pipe coming out of your basement wall or floor from the street into your home. That pipe is usually in the basement and immediately adjacent to the floor or wall.

If your water comes from a **private well**, find the pressure tank and pipes that carry water in and out of the tank. You can try this test, but you might need to call a certified well driller to help you find out what material was used to build your well and connect your plumbing to the pressure tank.



**Use a key or coin to tap on the service line. Did it ring like two pieces of metal hitting together?**

**YES** The pipe is probably metal.

**NO** Did it sound dull? The pipe is probably plastic.



**Hold the magnet to the pipe. Did it stick?**

**YES** The pipe might be galvanized steel, iron or copper.

**NO** The pipe might be lead, copper or plastic.



**Carefully scratch the pipe with the key or coin. Did the pipe turn a shiny silver color?**

**YES** The pipe might be lead or steel.

**NO** The pipe is probably plastic. If it turns shiny orange like a penny, it is probably copper.

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, your water may contain lead. If you suspect any of your pipes may be made of lead, contact a licensed and insured plumber to confirm. They can also tell you what parts of your plumbing should be replaced. Locate a certified lab or contact your local health department to request a water testing kit.

For more information, visit [Michigan.gov/KnowYourWater](https://Michigan.gov/KnowYourWater).

