IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION FOR:

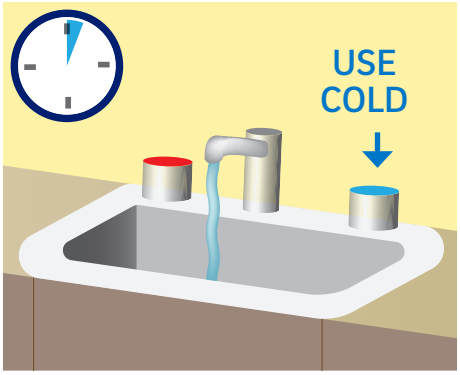
HOMEOWNERS WITH LEAD PLUMBING

PHILADELPHIA WATER

Daily cleaning tips to clean lead from your home's drinking water pipes

CAUTION

If your home is connected to the City water main by a water service line that has sections made from lead, a toxic metal, it can impact your health. Follow the steps below to clean out your home plumbing until lead plumbing is replaced. **Lead is harmful to everyone. Pregnant women, infants, children under the age of six and adults with high blood pressure and kidney problems are at the most risk.**



Instructions for daily cleaning

Run cold water from your tap for at least three minutes. This will give you fresh water from the City water main that is safe for drinking, cooking, making baby formula, feeding your pets, making ice, or watering vegetable gardens.

TIP: You can also bring in fresh water from the City water main by taking a shower, washing dishes, using the clothes washer, or flushing the toilets first.

Best time of day?	How often?	For how long?	When to stop?
• First thing in the morning • After you come home from work, if no one has used the water all day	• Before using water for any cooking or drinking • If no one has used the water for 6 hours or more	At least 3 – 5 minutes	This ongoing maintenance is good to do regularly, but especially important in any homes that still have lead pipes

8/18/16

Cleaning faucet aerators

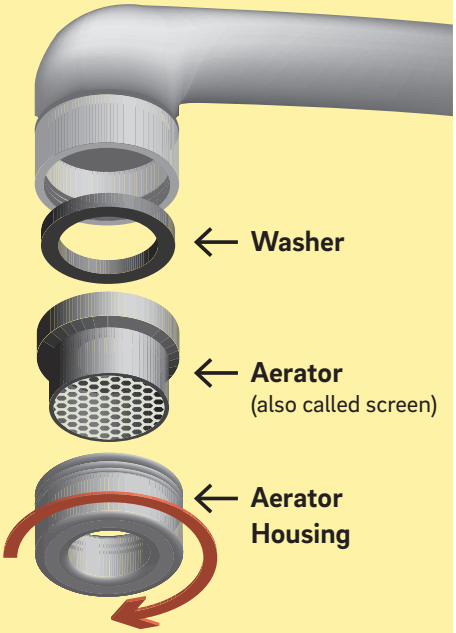
Don't let poorly maintained home plumbing prevent you from getting the best water available!

As water stands in your home's plumbing, lead from the soldered joints and old lead pipes can get into your water. Other debris can build up on the aerator, too. It's important to clean faucet aerators and screens to remove any debris from them.

How often should I clean aerators?

It's recommended you replace the aerator annually, and then clean the aerator twice a year. If the aerator appears to need frequent cleaning or becomes worn, the aerator may need to be replaced more often.

What is a faucet aerator?



It's a device attached to the tip of a faucet. It saves water, filters out debris, and prevents water from splashing. As water flows through the screen, it mixes with air and flows more evenly.

Instructions for cleaning aerators

You will need:

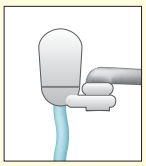
- Rag
- Masking tape
- Wrench or Pliers
- Old toothbrush
- White vinegar
- Small plastic tub
- Extra aerators
- Extra washers

If your faucet has an aerator that you can take off, follow these easy steps:

- ❑ Place a rag in the sink drain in case you drop any pieces.
- ❑ If you need to use a wrench or pliers, wrap masking tape around the tips of the wrench or pliers, or on the aerator. Using tape will keep you from scratching the aerator.
- ❑ Unscrew the aerator.
- ❑ Separate each part—aerator housing, aerator and rubber washer.
- ❑ Remove small bits on the screen and other parts.
- ❑ Soak the parts in white vinegar for a few minutes.
- ❑ Scrub them with a brush.
- ❑ If the aerator and rubber washer are in poor condition, replace them.
- ❑ Put the aerator parts back together.
- ❑ Screw the aerator back onto the faucet.
- ❑ Repeat these steps for all faucets.

Troubleshooting

Can't find the aerator?
Some faucets have hidden aerators. If you have a hidden aerator, follow the manufacturer's instructions.



If you have a water filter attached to a faucet, the faucet will not have an aerator.

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