



Reduce your Exposure to Lead

Clean Water Action Fact Sheet

Recommendations to Improve Water Quality

Clean Faucet Aerators

Aerators should be regularly cleaned to remove particulate matter and prevent lead-bearing particulates from leaching lead into drinking water.

Flush Your Tap Water

Before drinking, flush your home's pipes by running water at the tap. Flushing involves opening taps and letting the water run to remove water that has stagnated in pipes, faucets and/or fixtures. Let cold water run from the tap for approximately 30-45 seconds or 8 oz.

Install Lead-Free Plumbing

Lead in drinking water may result from lead plumbing or a wide array of lead containing pipes, fittings and devices made of leaded brass/bronze alloys, like kitchen faucets or water fountains. When replacing your plumbing, ensure that the new plumbing materials comply with the current "lead free" requirements and NSF/ANSI/CAN 61 certified plumbing components.

Use a Filter for Added Protection

Point of use or pitcher water filters (NSF/ANSI-53 filters & NSF/ANSI-42) can be used, either alone or in combination with flushing, to reduce exposure in water used for consumption (drinking, cooking, etc.).

Get a Lead Blood Test

Contact your healthcare provider or the Department of Health (DOH) to get you or your child tested for lead.

DOH Hotline (Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm):
(340) 712-6299 and 340-776-1519



Take Off Lead-Based Paint

Homes built before 1978 may contain lead-based paint because lead-based paint was only banned in 1978 and after.

Do not purchase, use or consume foods, cosmetics, medicines, or products that may contain lead

Lead can be sometimes found in these items, particularly when imported from other countries. Certain candy ingredients, such as chili powder and tamarind, may be a source of lead exposure as lead can get into the candy during the drying, storing, or grinding process when done improperly. In addition, antique toys and some jewelry, may contain lead paint. The use of lead in plastics is not banned, and as such, plastic toys and other products can lead to increased exposure if exposed to sunlight, air, or detergents, and then the plastic product is touched and makes its way to an open mouth.

To learn more, visit our website
at: www.cleanwaterusvi.com
or www.viwapa.vi/stxwater



**CLEAN WATER
ACTION**
United States Virgin Islands

