

## **RECYCLING NEWS UPDATE**

### **PROGRAM UPDATE**

There have been some minor changes as far as our recycling program goes. We have been notified by our contractor that there have been some changes in what is acceptable or not. These are summarized below:

#### **Plastics:**

They will now accept all plastic bottles and containers, not just #1's & #2's as in the past. These include soda, water and other drink bottles; food and household bottles, jars and jugs; dairy containers and lids; produce, bakery and deli containers. They will not accept plastic bags, motor oil bottles or styrofoam. You are to empty and rinse all containers and remove and discard all screw caps.

#### **Metal and Glass:**

They will accept aluminum bottles & cans; steel & tin cans; empty aerosol cans; food & beverage glass bottles and jars. They will not accept any aluminum pans or foil; or any empty paint cans. You are to empty & rinse all containers and remove & discard all screw caps.

These changes are due to changes on where we current have the recyclables processed. This will hopefully make it a little easier for everyone because more of these items are acceptable than previously.

### **CLEAN SWEEP & ELECTRONICS RECYCLING**

Calumet County, through the UW Extension Office, is again conducting Annual Clean Sweep Events along with electronics recycling. There are actually three different locations available to choose from. Costs for disposing of electronics is \$1 per item. If you wish to participate in any of these three dates, you MUST schedule an appointment. Information on these pick up dates and on how to schedule an appointment is included with this newsletter.

### **YARD WASTE**

Although it has not been happening as often as in the past, we still are experiencing periodic issues with our compost site. Please remember that only yard waste and brush can be disposed of there on their proper piles. We have taken steps to ensure that the signage is clear on which piles you are to dispose of this material. We are only asking that you as a resident take just a very small amount of your time to ensure that you are disposing of the proper material and it is being disposed on the correct piles. This area is not a dumping ground for other materials such as concrete, brick, garbage, etc. If you have concrete material that needs to be disposed of, it can be done at the wastewater treatment plant by appointment. We recycle the concrete there and use the recycled material as base in our projects. Please contact the clerk's office to make arrangements. Also please remember to keep all grass clippings out of the roads as the weather starts to warm up and we begin to think about cutting our lawns again. It is against current ordinance and if we have to clean it up out of the gutters, you would be billed accordingly.

## **SPRING CLEAN**

The annual Spring Clean will again be held this year. We will be having the drop off site again in the gravel parking lot across the street from the fire station/community center. Items will not be picked up at the curbing. The event is scheduled for Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. No material will be picked up if it is left out on the curb area. Although this may cause you some inconvenience, we have found that this is the most cost effective, efficient way to continue to provide this service to the residents. The recycling committee will again be on site to assist you. If there are other residents willing to volunteer your time, it would be greatly appreciated. Following is the list of acceptable and non-acceptable items:

### **ACCEPTABLE ITEMS FOR COLLECTION**

- \*Household items such as couches, chairs, tables, lamps, sinks and toilets.**
- \*Carpeting, rugs, pads from carpeting. All carpeting/pad material should be cut down to 4' lengths and tied for ease of handling.**
- \*Bedsprings, mattresses, bed frames, swing sets and wash line poles (with concrete removed from the poles) and bicycles.**
- \*Freon free appliances (i.e. washers, dryers, stoves, water heaters, water softeners and dishwashers.**
- \*Any NON-HAZARDOUS household refuse that is bagged or bundled.**
- \*Scrap Metals.**

### **NON-ACCEPTABLE ITEMS FOR COLLECTION**

- \*No refrigerators, freezers or dehumidifiers under any circumstances, even if the freon has been removed.**
- \*No microwaves.**
- \*No E-Waste, such as computers, monitors, any computer accessories, televisions, VCR/DVD/DVR players, telephones, fax machines or any electronic item.**
- \*No residential recycling items.**
- \*No gasoline-powered engines.**
- \*No construction and remodeling debris (such as plaster, shingles, siding). These items require a dumpster.**
- \*No yard waste**
- \*No fluorescent light bulbs and household hazardous materials (chemicals, paints, spray cans, etc.)**
- \*No tires or batteries.**

The Recycling Committee

# LEAD PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM for MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEMS

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER.

Village of Hilbert Waterworks has found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes or buildings. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

### 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, more than healthy adults at lower levels of lead. 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 while in utero, which may affect the child's brain development.

### Lead in drinking water

Lead in drinking water, although rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, can significantly increase a person's total lead exposure, particularly the exposure of infants who drink baby formulas and concentrated juices that are mixed with water. The EPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20% or more of a person's total exposure to lead.

### Sources of Lead in drinking water

Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like rivers and lakes. Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and household plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass and chrome plated brass faucets, and in some cases, pipes made of lead that connect your house to the water main (service lines). In 1986, congress banned the use of lead solder containing greater than 0.2% lead, and restricted the lead content of faucets, pipes and other plumbing materials to 8.0%. When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into your drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning, or later in the afternoon after returning from work or school, can contain fairly high levels of lead.

### Steps you can take to reduce exposure to Lead in drinking Water

Despite our best efforts mentioned earlier to control water corrosivity and remove lead from the water supply, lead levels in some homes or buildings can be high. To find out whether you need to take action in your own home, have your drinking water tested to determine if it contains excessive concentrations of lead. Testing the water is essential because you cannot see, taste or smell lead in drinking water. Some local laboratories that can provide this service are listed at the end of this booklet. For more information on having your water tested, please call [insert phone number of water system].

If a water test indicates that the drinking water drawn from a tap in your home contains lead above 15 ppb, then you should take the following precautions:

- Let the water run from the tap before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in a faucet has gone unused for more than 6 hours. The longer water resides in your home's plumbing the more lead it may contain. Flushing the tap means running the cold water faucet until the water gets noticeably colder, usually about 15-30 seconds. If your house has a

lead service line to the water main, you may have to flush the water for a longer time, perhaps one minute, before drinking. Although toilet flushing or showering flushes water through a portion of your home's plumbing system, you still need to flush the water in each faucet before using it for drinking or cooking. Flushing tap water is a simple and inexpensive measure you can take to protect your family's health. It usually uses less than one or 2 gallons of water and costs less than [insert a cost estimate based on flushing 2 times a day for 30 days] per month. To conserve water, fill a couple of bottles for drinking water after flushing the tap, and whenever possible use the first flush water to wash the dishes or water the plants. If you live in a high-rise building, letting the water flow before using it may not work to lessen your risk from lead. The plumbing systems have more, and sometimes larger pipes than smaller buildings. Ask your landlord for help in locating the source of the lead and for advice on reducing the lead level.

- Do not cook with, or drink water from the hot water tap. Hot water can dissolve more lead more quickly than cold water. If you need hot water, draw water from the cold tap and heat it on the stove. Also, note that boiling water does NOT reduce lead levels.
- Remove loose lead solder and debris from the plumbing materials installed in newly constructed homes, or homes in which the plumbing has recently been replaced, by removing the faucet strainers from all taps and running the water from 3 to 5 minutes. Thereafter, periodically remove the strainers and flush out any debris that has accumulated over time.
- If your copper pipes are joined with lead solder that has been installed illegally since it was banned in Wisconsin on September 24, 1984, notify the plumber who did the work and request that he or she replace the lead solder with lead-free solder. Lead solder looks dull gray, and when scratched with a key looks shiny. In addition, notify the department of natural resources about the violation.
- Determine whether or not the service line that connects your home or apartment to the water main is made of lead. The best way to determine if your service line is made of lead is by either hiring a licensed plumber to inspect the line or by contacting the plumbing contractor who installed the line. You

can identify the plumbing contractor by checking the city's record of building permits which should be maintained in the files of the [insert name of department that issues building permits]. A licensed plumber can at the same time check to see if your home's plumbing contains lead solder, lead pipes or pipe fittings that contain lead. The public water system that delivers water to your home should also maintain records of the materials located in the distribution system. If the service line that connects your dwelling to the water main contributes more than 15 ppb to drinking water, after our comprehensive treatment program is in place, we are required to replace the portion of the line we own. If the line is only partially owned by the [insert name of the city, county, or water system that controls the line], we are required to provide the owner of the privately-owned portion of the line with information on how to replace the privately-owned portion of the service line, and offer to replace that portion of the line at the owner's expense. If we replace only the portion of the line that we own, we also are required to notify you in advance and provide you with information on the steps you can take to minimize exposure to any temporary increase in lead levels that may result from the partial replacement, to take a follow-up sample at our expense from the line within 72 hours after the partial replacement, and to mail or otherwise provide you with the results of that sample within three business days of receiving the results. Acceptable replacement alternatives include copper, steel, iron and plastic pipes.

- Have an electrician check your wiring. If grounding wires from the electrical system are attached to your pipes, corrosion may be greater. Check with a licensed electrician or your local electrical code to determine if your wiring can be grounded elsewhere. DO NOT attempt to change the wiring yourself because improper grounding can cause electrical shock and fire hazards.
- Replace fixtures that are known to contribute lead to drinking water with "lead-free" fixtures. An amendment to the Safe Drinking Water Act that updates the definition of "lead free", and reduces the amount of lead allowed in some plumbing fixtures

becomes effective in 2014. Products that meet this new definition will be clearly marked as "lead free". The steps described above will reduce the lead concentrations in your drinking water. However, if a water test indicates that the drinking water coming from your tap contains lead concentrations in excess of 15 ppb after flushing, or after we have completed our actions to minimize lead levels, then you may want to take the following additional measures:

- Purchase or lease a home treatment device. Home treatment devices are limited in that each unit treats only the water that flows from the faucet to which it is connected, and all of the devices require periodic maintenance and replacement. Devices such as reverse osmosis systems or distillers can effectively remove lead from your drinking water. Some activated carbon filters may reduce lead levels at the tap, however all lead reduction claims should be investigated. Be sure to check the actual performance of a specific home treatment device before and after installing the unit.

- Purchase bottled water for drinking and cooking.
- We are investigating the reason for the elevated lead levels in drinking water, and will take corrective actions, which may include:
  - Installing corrosion control treatment
  - Removing lead service lines
  - Other actions as deemed appropriate
- You can consult a variety of sources for additional information. Your family doctor or pediatrician can perform a blood test for lead and provide you with information about the health effects of lead. Calumet County Health Department at 920-849-1432 can provide you with information about the health effects of lead and how you can have your child's blood tested.

The following is a list of some state approved laboratories in your area that you can call to have your water tested for lead.

Badger Labs, Neenah, WI 920-729-1100  
Clear Water Lab, Appleton, WI 920-733-7590

For more information, call us at 920-853-3556, or visit our Web site at [www.villageofhilbert.com](http://www.villageofhilbert.com).

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home or building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/lead> or contact your health care provider.



Calumet County UW-Extension Office  
206 Court Street  
Chilton, WI 53014-1198  
920-849-1450 ext 3, 920-989-2700  
FAX: (920) 849-1614

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## Safe Disposal of hazardous wastes and electronics

Calumet County and the Advanced Disposal Services landfill are teaming up to offer the annual Hazardous Waste Clean Sweep collection program to county residents. Hazardous wastes will be collected at no cost at several sites in the county this spring:

- May 1, 9-11am County Highway Shop in Chilton;
- May 15, 9-11am City of New Holstein Public Works;
- June 5, 9-11am Town of Brillion garage.

Participants **MUST** schedule an appointment to participate, which can be made by visiting the Calumet County UW Extension website (<http://calumet.uwex.edu>) or by calling the Extension office at 849-1450.

Residents are reminded that unwanted or broken televisions (consoles up to 32", flat screens up to 60"), computers and most other electronics can be dropped off **FREE** at Best Buy retail locations. Check the Best Buy website ([www.bestbuy.com](http://www.bestbuy.com)) to see if a particular item is accepted. Plans are still being made to hold an electronics drop off event at a future date in 2015.

Hazardous wastes are products whose labels include the words caution, poison, combustible, danger, warning, flammable, or corrosive. Latex paint and electronics are **NOT ACCEPTED** at any of these events. Hazardous wastes that can be brought to the Clean Sweep include, but are not limited to, solvents, fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides (including DDT and chlordane), rodent baits, lead and oil based paints, kitchen and bathroom cleaners, bug sprays, and auto products such as used oil, old gasoline, transmission fluid and antifreeze