

## **FAQ's 04/08/16**

### **Q: What happens when hot water is ran through A filter**

A: Per the manufacturers: If hot water is run through the cartridges, it will not be adequately filtered and in some cases may actually reverse the chemical absorption and adsorption processes, releasing contaminants back into the water. Use only Cold or Cool water when operating the filters. If you happen to accidentally run hot water through the system, simply run cold water through the unit for 2 minutes to flush out the hot water. With regard to whole house systems, you will still get clean filtered hot water because the cold water line of your home will connect to the filter system, get filtered first and then will go to the hot water heater to be heated.

### **Q: Regarding the side-effects of lead: On average how soon do symptoms appear?**

A: There is no one, clear answer as signs or symptoms may or may not appear at all and often depend upon the dosage or the duration of exposure. Acute symptoms of poisoning are usually due to high dose exposures such as in certain occupational work place settings. Chronic low dose exposures may or may not have symptoms. Whether or not symptoms develop again is dependent upon the degree of exposure, the amount of exposure, and potential duration. Potential underlying medical conditions may also influences such things. CDC statement on symptoms: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/lead/health.html>

### **Q: What government bodies are testing the water and what are they testing?**

A: MDEQ and EPA are testing the water,

- MDEQ: The samples of water that are sent in by residents are tested for lead and copper. (Angela has sent this back to DEQ to identify what else DEQ may be testing)

- EPA: More details and maps can be found here: <https://www.epa.gov/flint/flint-water-sampling-efforts>

- o Chlorine Monitoring: EPA is collecting samples at businesses and homes throughout Flint to determine chlorine levels in the drinking water system. Chlorine is used to disinfect drinking water and prevent the growth of viruses and bacteria such as E. coli. At appropriate levels, the presence of chlorine in drinking water is normal. At monitoring locations where chlorine is not found, EPA follows up with testing for microbial contamination.

- o Sequential Sampling for Lead Assessment: EPA is sampling for lead in drinking water in Flint homes. At each location, a sequential series of 15-20 water samples is collected, each representing a length of pipe from the home to the water main. This type of sampling looks at different plumbing materials to evaluate sources of lead in drinking water. Sequential samples will be collected every two months at select homes to determine whether or not corrosion control is working throughout the water system.

o Testing In-Home Lead Filters: NSF-certified lead removal filters are being distributed in Flint by the State of Michigan to remove lead from household water and make it safe for people to drink. EPA is sampling drinking water in households to test the effectiveness of these filters at removing lead at high concentrations. Samples are also analyzed for 13 total metals, pH and chlorine. EPA sampling results show that lead-removal filters are working as expected in Flint homes. EPA continues to recommend that Flint residents use NSF-certified filters in their homes.

o Hot Water Sampling: EPA is sampling cold and hot water in homes to determine the impact of stagnation and heat on drinking water quality. Water samples are analyzed for: 13 total metals (including lead and copper), chlorine, pH

o Health Concern Sampling: EPA is collecting water samples from homes participating in a study being conducted by health agencies. Water samples are collected from kitchen and bathroom fixtures at different temperatures and analyzed for: 24 total metals (including lead and copper), chloride, sulfate, fluoride, chlorine, pH

o At select homes, water samples will be collected at different temperatures and analyzed for additional organic compounds, including disinfection byproducts and trihalomethanes (THM). Water quality data is provided to health agencies for evaluation and communication with residents.