

**Scott Smith (Chief Technology Officer & Investigator) - Water Defense
Statement 4/09/16**

It is irresponsible and incomprehensible for anyone to declare or suggest that the water in Flint is safe to bathe or shower in when the water used in bathing and showering was not tested for the full spectrum of chemicals including but not limited to chemicals that volatilize and/or aerosolize in air and pose direct inhalation risk into the lungs – these chemicals include but are not limited to chloroform and particulate lead.

For example, Water Defense tested a home where the Agencies tested one or two sinks of cold water for just copper and lead and then issued written pamphlets to the residents declaring the “water safe to bathe and shower in.” It is basic common sense to understand that people don’t bathe or shower in sink water and that there is already a preponderance of evidence with people continuing to suffer compromised health that appears to be a result of showering and bathing in Flint water.

Furthermore, it is disingenuous for anyone to compare drinking water and/or drinking water standards to inhalation of volatilized and/or aerosolized chemicals in hot showers when there are neither bathing/showering standards nor complete testing of shower/bath water including but not limited to testing the air and water in bathrooms for aerosolized particulate lead and other volatilized chemicals like chloroform.

The people of Flint have suffered enough for too long and deserve transparent scientific truth without obfuscation. The best way to continue to build trust from the great community of Flint is for all people involved in this investigation to admit that we don’t yet know whether it is safe to bathe or shower in the flint water, but that we are all committed to working together to get the answers by complete home testing including but not limited to air testing in bathrooms and complete home water testing as Water Defense has done – from the state of the water as it enters the home to the water heater to all sinks, bathtubs, and showers.

It is also time to listen to the people of Flint and their health issues and stop dismissing them which only serves to diminish trust and cause more suffering. Clearly, there appears to be enough scientific evidence that suggests the distinct possibility that the health issues in Flint are from the bath and shower water.

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For example, Water Defense toxicologists have reviewed the testing results to date and have found that excessive phosphates can lead to low blood pressure which residents of Flint are reporting, aerosolized particulate lead from showers along with volatilized chemicals like chloroform can be inhaled directly to the lungs and can cause the rashes and other symptoms exhibited by some Flint residents, and volatile chemicals like chloroform can also be dermally absorbed through the skin in bathtubs/showers potentially producing the symptoms being exhibited by some Flint residents.

Water Defense looks forward to continued collaboration with the EPA and the State of MI DEQ. Water Defense will not rest nor stop our work for the community of Flint until we understand completely what is in the water in Flint that is making people sick.

Furthermore, Water Defense will continue to make certain that the irrefutable scientific data and truth leads the dialogue while bringing people together to find solutions for the community of Flint.