

Recommendations for Licensed Food Establishments Using City of Benton Harbor Water

February 2019

Attention: This applies to licensed restaurants, grocery stores, convenience stores, food processors and food warehouses.

- The best way to determine if water contains lead is to have it tested. Safe results can be posted to inform consumers.
- A licensed plumber can check your plumbing and service lines for lead soldering or lead service lines.
- Restaurants with general questions should contact the Berrien County Health Department at: 269-926-7121.
- Grocery stores, food production facilities or food warehouses with general questions should contact MDARD at: 1-800-292-3939.

Unless the water has been tested and found to not have a lead concern, do the following:

- If a filter is not in use, flush water lines for at least 5 minutes each day before using or serving water and after 6 hours of no water use. Then flush other equipment such as equipment listed below for at least 1-2 minutes.
- Install an NSF Standard 53 certified filter on the faucet where drinking/cooking water is obtained from. Approved filter information for faucet or in-line filters can be found at: http://info.nsf.org/Certified/DWTU/listings_leadreduction.asp. Filters must be changed based upon the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Use cold water and store it for immediate consumption.
- Always use cold water for drinking, cooking and cleaning/rinsing food.
- Hot water must be used for dishwashing.

For other equipment that may use city water:

- Ice machines – Install a water filter on the supply line or use bagged ice in drinking water.
- Pop machines – After initial flushing as described above, flush for 1 minute daily or use bottled beverages.
- Coffee machines – After initial flushing as described above, flush for 1-2 minutes daily or use filtered water. These products may be very low risk as young children under 6 are not likely to consume these.
- Slush machines – Use filtered water.
- Spray misters – After initial flushing as described above, flush for 1-2 minutes daily or use filtered water.

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Find more information on water testing resources at www.bchdmi.org.**