

Water Quality Testing

Lastly, the BWL conducts periodic testing for lead and copper in its drinking water. To comply with federal and state lead and copper regulations, the BWL performs lead and copper analysis at customer homes every three years, with the last round of testing occurring in 2014. These tests must be

conducted in homes likely to have the highest concentration of lead. That includes houses with lead

service lines and houses with copper plumbing built just before lead-based solder was outlawed in the late 1980s.

EPA's action level for lead is 15 parts per billion at the 90th percentile.

That means 90 percent of the homes sampled for lead have to have a lead concentration of 15 parts per billion or less. The 2014 test indicated that 90 percent of samples were less than 7.8 parts per billion.

Clean Water Source

Unlike many water systems that make use of surface waters such as lakes and rivers, the sole source of the BWL's drinking water is the Saginaw Aquifer, located hundreds of feet below the City. The Saginaw Aquifer is a safe and reliable source of drinking water that meets all drinking water standards. The BWL's drinking water is pumped from 125 wells that reach about 400 feet below ground. Water from BWL wells is transported through large transmission mains to one of two water conditioning plants. The plants soften the water by removing about 80 percent of the hardness. The softened water is then chlorinated, fluoridated, treated with a corrosion control agent, filtered and stored in reservoirs for distribution through 800 miles of water mains to our 55,000 customers. Lansing is one of the largest communities in the country to rely exclusively on groundwater to meet its drinking water requirements.

For more information visit

lbwl.com/water

epa.gov/safewater

or call the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline

1-800-426-4791



Water Quality Update

BWL Water Meets or Exceeds State and Federal Quality Standards



For 130 Years, the Lansing Board of Water & Light has been a reliable supplier of safe water to the Lansing community.

The water distributed from the water conditioning plants of the BWL meets or exceeds all measures of drinking water quality under the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, the State of Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act (PA 399) and other conditions defined by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

Protecting Customers from Lead

BWL Water has no detectable lead when it leaves the water conditioning plants and there are no lead mains in its 800 mile distribution system. The BWL follows a two part strategy to protect its 55,000 residential and commercial customers from exposure to lead leaching into drinking water. Since 2004 the BWL has spent more than \$42 million removing more than 13,500 lead service lines, which the BWL owns from the water main to the meter at a home or business. As of February 2016, the BWL has less than 650 known active lead service lines to be replaced by June 2017. The BWL uses a corrosion control additive to create a protective coating in the water mains, service lines and indoor plumbing. To assure that these strategies are effective, the BWL conducts periodic testing for lead and copper in its drinking water and corrosion control concentrations in its distribution system. These are just two of many tests performed to assure that BWL water remains safe.

Corrosion Control

Reducing the water's corrosiveness is important to keeping lead out of drinking water. The BWL uses a phosphate compound to coat water pipes and prevent leaching of lead and copper into drinking water and which has shown past success in reducing lead levels. The level of corrosion control leaving BWL's water conditioning plants is tested every 4 hours and 30 minutes to confirm that proper levels of the additive are present. Also, quarterly sampling results from the distribution system are used to confirm that the levels of additive necessary to achieve corrosion control are present throughout the BWL's service territory.

Although the BWL has been proactive in removing lead service lines, lead may still be present in home plumbing fixtures, in older copper plumbing with lead solder and some older brass fixtures that contain lead. The BWL's corrosion control additive is also designed to minimize lead exposure from the plumbing inside a home or other building just as it does in the BWL's distribution system.

