



## MUNICIPALITY OF MARMORA & LAKE

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Environment Department

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### Lead and Drinking Water

The concentrations of lead in Ontario's surface and groundwater are very low. Potential sources of lead in drinking water can include lead containing components in household plumbing (pipes, solder, and fixtures). Homes built before the mid 1950's often contain lead pipes, solder and service connections. Homes built after 1989 are unlikely to have any lead in pipes, service lines, solder or joints. The Ontario drinking water quality standard for lead, based on national guidelines, is 10 micrograms per litre.

**Infants, children less than six years of age, nursing mothers and pregnant women are most at risk** from long-term exposure to elevated concentrations of lead which may result in delayed physical and mental development among infants and children.

If you want to determine the amount of lead in your drinking water submit a water sample to a licensed laboratory. If there are levels of lead above the standard limit you can reduce your potential exposure to lead by:

- Flushing the drinking water tap for at least 5 minutes if the water has been sitting in the plumbing lines for six or more hours.
- Use cold, flushed water for drinking and preparing food. Water from hot water taps should not be consumed as heated water may contain higher concentrations of lead.
- Consider installing a filter approved by the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) for reducing lead. Ensure to follow the manufacturers operating and maintenance instructions. Failure to do so may result in potentially harmful bacterial growth within the equipment.
- Have a licensed plumber survey your plumbing system. A licensed plumber can identify and replace any lead pipes, pipes fitted with lead solder, or fittings containing lead.

For information on lead in drinking water and approved laboratories in Ontario refer to the Ministry of Environment website <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca> For more information on lead in your home, refer to the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation website <http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca>.

