

BLOOMINGTON'S SAFE WATER

The City of Bloomington has provided reliable, cost-effective water services from 1875 to the present day that meets Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) federal standards, Illinois EPA (IEPA) state standards, and American Water Works Association (AWWA) recommendations for public health, including compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule.

We view protection of public health through the water supply as our core mission.

Our water is pumped from our two reservoirs and then treated at the water treatment plant:

- Treatment to raise the pH, which helps make the water less corrosive
- Treatment to remove impurities through coagulation, flocculation, and sedimentation
- Filtering through gravel, sand, and granular activated carbon
- Chemical treatment with chlorine, chloramination, and fluoride addition
- The water chemistry of the finished water is balanced, which helps create a film / barrier to any metal or chemical dissolving from the pipe material on the inside of the existing water services throughout the system

Our finished water leaving the plant is tested many times each day to ensure that it meets the stringent EPA testing requirements and guidelines. The water is also tested at various points in the distribution system to ensure that it meets strict criteria throughout the system. The City of Bloomington has a safe historical record. The water is stabilized and water sampling and testing for lead at the faucets of residences with lead water services has not exceeded the 90% action level imposed by the Lead and Copper Rule.



Undisturbed lead water services under normal usage with a phosphate coating are safe. If the service sits for weeks with no usage it should be flushed per AWWA recommendations before restarting usage. Water mains have to be periodically replaced because of several possible reasons, including age, pressures, flow-rates, and City demand growth. When the mains are replaced, any services connected to them are also replaced to the City owned curb-stop. AWWA recommends and the City supports advising the residents affected by construction that if their portion of the service line is composed of galvanized or lead pipe they replace their portion of their service to the home at that time because of potential disturbance to the pipes. The City will coordinate lead testing at the City's expense as a service for residents that request testing to be performed.

