



February 2, 2016

Dear Colleague,

As Flint, Michigan struggles with their water quality crisis, it is important for New Yorkers to know that their water is of the highest quality and completely safe to drink. As you know, the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) invests billions of dollars annually to further improve and update our water supply system. Some recent projects include:

Emily Lloyd
Commissioner

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- the Catskill Delaware Ultraviolet Treatment Facility
- the Croton Filtration Water Treatment Plant
- City Water Tunnel 3

In addition to these and other significant infrastructure upgrades, DEP spends substantial time and resources testing the water quality from 1,000 water quality testing locations around the 5 boroughs, as well as testing water quality upstate in our reservoirs, lakes, and tunnels. In total, DEP conducts over half a million water quality tests every year.

While New York City's water is virtually lead-free when it is delivered from our reservoir system, water can absorb lead from pipes, fixtures, and solder (material used to join pipes) found in the internal plumbing of some buildings or homes. While all city-owned buildings, including all public schools, have been renovated to remove lead pipes, DEP believes that a moderate percentage of homes in NYC may have:

- lead service lines, which connect the property to the City's water infrastructure and are the responsibility of the property owner to maintain (properties built before 1961 may have lead service lines)
- internal fixtures and plumbing that contain lead
- internal plumbing joined by lead solder (plumbing installed before 1987 may contain lead solder)

To help reduce the amount of lead that can dissolve from a homeowner's plumbing/service line into their tap water, DEP:

- carefully and continuously monitors and adjusts pH levels of water to a specific range that reduces the corrosiveness of the water
- adds phosphoric acid, which binds to pipes to create a protective film that reduces the release of metals, such as lead, from household plumbing

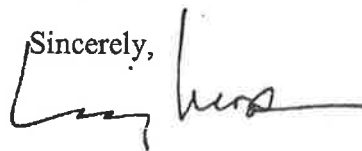
Property owners interested in testing their water for lead can contact DEP for a free kit by calling 311, visiting the 311 website, or visiting DEP's website. Upon receiving the water sample, DEP will test the water and send the

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property owner the results within 30 days. Should the results show an elevated level, the City will inform the property owner of recommended next steps.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emily Lloyd", written in a cursive style.

Emily Lloyd