



# Getting the Lead Out OF OUR DRINKING WATER

Your neighbors have initiated a **Community-Led Environmental Action Plan (C-LEAP)** and have identified lead in the drinking water as a major concern they want to take action on solving. Community Members are trying to reach people who might want to learn about and valuate their drinking water by attending neighborhood events, and going door-to-door in areas where lead in the drinking water might be likely

**Why screen for lead in my drinking water?** Lead is a heavy metal that is found in lead pipes (and some faucets and fixtures) in homes built before 1986 that bring drinking water to your faucet. When water sits in the pipes, it can pick up the lead and create a health danger for your family. Lead exposure (in the air, soil or in water) can pose health risks, including affecting the brain's ability to control impulses and process information, which is especially dangerous for children, even at low levels of exposure. Children with lead poisoning are likely to struggle in school and throughout their lives. Learning about lead and then working to remove the lead exposure is the best solution for avoiding lead poisoning.

**How do I screen for lead in my drinking water?** The C-LEAP team is working to provide free Lead Screening Kits to households to collect water samples. The kits provide detailed instructions, but the testing is free, anonymous, and easy, only requiring you to collect a sample of the water first thing in the morning (the first water that goes through your faucet that day). When you return the kit, researchers will analyze the samples and residents will receive a full, confidential report detailing what they found. If lead levels are detected, they will also provide a list of strategies to help residents reduce exposure to lead.



**Return your kit!** It's important the C-LEAP team receive the lead screening kits back. You will need to return the collected sample in the kit to **Cleo's Bodega** (2424 Dr Martin Luther King Jr Drive). The kits also let you screen for lead in dust and soil - the two other main sources for lead exposure in and around your home. If you are unable to drop off your kit, a C-LEAP team member can arrange to pick up the collected sample and kit.

**Receive \$20 Gift Card and Water Filtration Pitcher.** When you are at Cleo's, sign up for our neighborhood newsletter and you will receive a \$20 gift card from the **Cleo's Bodega** grocery or cafe' side. In addition, the C-LEAP team can offer a lead filtration option for your household. In most cases, we can offer you a refillable water pitcher (and a year's supply of pitcher filters) that will meet the US EPA guidelines for lead removal. You can keep this pitcher in the refrigerator or on the counter. The most important thing is to keep it filled, change the filter as recommended, and use it for all drinking water in your household to reduce you and your family's risk of lead poisoning.



**Test Your Drinking Water Today!** We hope that you'll agree that it's vitally important to get your drinking water tested as soon as possible. Look for the C-LEAP team at an upcoming event or contact a C-LEAP Team member at [AHPKit@gmail.com](mailto:AHPKit@gmail.com) or 317/737-2810 to get one dropped off to you soon.

**Lead Pipe Replacement?** Replacing lead pipes can be very expensive. The lead screening and filtration efforts outlined above are intended to help inform and provide short-term solutions to a critical community problem. Citizens Energy Group, our Indianapolis water utility, has just launched a program for lead pipe replacement and is piloting the program with 110 homes in the Near Northwest area and will expand to other neighborhoods over time. To learn more about that program, visit: <https://www.citizensenergygroup.com/Our-Company/Our-Projects/Lead-Service-Line-Replacement-Program>

**Get more info: <https://www.groundworkindy.org/what-we-do/community-health/>**

**This project is a partnership among:**

