

Milwaukee Water Works

Lead in water: What's the difference between Milwaukee and Flint, Michigan?

Safe, Abundant Drinking Water.

Flint, Michigan	Milwaukee
<p>Switched drinking water source from Lake Huron to the Flint River, which had known contamination problems</p>	<p>Deep, clean freshwater source in Lake Michigan</p> <p>Award-winning source water program dedicated to protecting and preserving our drinking water source</p>
<p>Changed treatment plant and other disinfection processes to try to clean the water from the river</p>	<p>Consistently providing high quality water through treatment and disinfection</p> <p>Treatment decisions based on latest science and best practices</p>
<p>The caustic river water removed the protective corrosion control film that had built up in pipes. Next, it dissolved lead from the lead service lines and building plumbing, and fixtures, releasing the lead into the water.</p> <p>Dismissed known science and best practices by not conducting a technical evaluation to determine the impacts of source water changes on water quality</p> <p>Thereafter, the water was not treated with corrosion control to protect against dissolving of lead from pipes in homes with lead pipes</p>	<p>Milwaukee continues to implement a robust corrosion-control treatment to minimize lead levels in water for homes with lead pipes. The treatment has been successfully used since 1996.</p> <p>MWW was named the Water Research Foundation Utility of the Year in 2016 for successfully applying research to make notable improvements in water treatment, delivery and management processes.</p> <p>Milwaukee's water quality monitoring and sampling techniques were featured in the national water utility publication, <i>Journal AWWA</i>, in January 2017.</p>
<p>Did not comply with EPA's Lead and Copper sampling program/reporting requirements</p>	<p>Milwaukee conducts - and will continue to manage - a sampling program at customer taps in accordance with the requirements of the EPA's Lead and Copper Rule - since 1992</p>