

Milwaukee Water Works

Safe, Abundant Drinking Water.

Reducing the risk of lead in water: What's the difference between Milwaukee and Flint, Michigan?

City of Flint Water Department	Milwaukee Water Works
<p>Switched drinking water source from Lake Huron to the Flint River, which had known contamination problems</p>	<p>Water is taken from Lake Michigan, a deep, clean and renewing fresh water source.</p> <p>Award-winning source water protection program is dedicated to protecting and preserving Milwaukee's drinking water source.</p>
<p>Changed treatment plant and other disinfection processes to try to clean the water from the river</p>	<p>Consistently provides high quality water through ozone disinfection and filtration</p> <p>Treatment decisions are based on the 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>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 named 2016 Water Research Foundation Utility of the Year 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 for lead service lines and LSL replacement were endorsed by the EPA, DNR and Milwaukee Health Department and featured in the international publication, <i>Journal American Water Works Association</i> in January 2017.</p> <p>MWW was presented the Wisconsin Section of AWWA 2016 Utility Special Achievement Award for working effectively with health and regulatory agencies to shape field and water quality monitoring activities and customer outreach to reduce lead at customers' taps.</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 as MWW has done since 1992.</p>