



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES

Director's Office
415 Stockbridge Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
Phone: (269) 337-8000
www.kalamazoocity.org/water

Occupant/Water Customer
1234 Main Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER **City of Kalamazoo Does Not Meet Treatment Requirements**

Si tiene alguna pregunta o necesita una explicación más detallada sobre este aviso en español, llame al (269) 337-8000.

In mid-April, the City of Kalamazoo received a notice from the State of Michigan. In 2018, we violated a drinking water treatment technique. As our customer, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing about this.

What should I do?

Nothing. This is an informational notice only. You do not need to boil your water or take other actions.

What happened?

We add phosphate, a safe chemical found in many foods, to the water system. Phosphates protect pipes from corrosion. Corrosion of pipes could result in elevated lead or copper levels in the water. Phosphates create a safe coating in the pipes that the water flows past. Lead and copper have significant health effects. We test water throughout the system to monitor lead and copper levels in the drinking water.

The state requires that we maintain phosphate within a range of acceptable levels. A public water supply is allowed nine days during a six-month period to be out of those ranges. This is called an excursion. An excursion day occurs when any range, at any location in our system, is either too high or too low. For every day we are outside of our ranges, the number increases by one. For the dates listed below, we did not maintain the range for phosphate:

Monitoring period	Location	Number of allowed excursion days	Excursion days
January 1 – June 30, 2018	Point of entry (where we add phosphate)	9	26 days
July 1 – December 31, 2018	Point of entry (where we add phosphate)	9	13 days
July 1 – December 31, 2018	Parchment Distribution System	9	20 day

Many water supply systems use one source of water. The City of Kalamazoo pumps water from 16 stations, from many aquifers, in 10 separate districts. The City of Kalamazoo monitors phosphate at 14 of these sources called points of entry. Every station has a state-designated range for phosphate. We have the same number of allowable excursion days as a one-source system. We had readings outside the ranges at five of our 16 pumping stations between January 1 and June 30, 2018. We had readings outside the ranges at three of our 16 pumping stations between July 1 and December 31, 2018.

In July, we also started supplying Parchment with drinking water. The Parchment Distribution System lost some of its phosphate coating during the PFAS removal and cleaning process. We made phosphate adjustments to re-coat Parchment's pipes. The State of Michigan approved these changes. As we adjusted our treatments, we had readings outside our range for phosphate. The pumping stations that were outside the range feed the east side of Kalamazoo, Parchment, Cooper Township and Kalamazoo Township.

What does this mean?

This does not require that you do anything, but we want you to know about it. If you had to act, you would have been notified immediately. If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

What is being done to reduce future violations?

The City of Kalamazoo is changing to a newer type of phosphate that helps to balance the system easier. We have already started to improve our procedures to minimize issues going forward. Kalamazoo will continue to test our water to make sure we are giving you safe water. We stand by our commitment to provide safe and reliable drinking water to all our customers. We will return to compliance when we meet the required ranges for a six-month period. The next six-month period ends June 30, 2019.

If you have any questions, please contact:

James J. Baker, PE, Director of Public Services
415 E. Stockbridge Ave.
(269) 337-8000

Information about Lead and Copper

This notice is not a violation of lead and copper rules, but any violation related to corrosion control requires education concerning lead and copper health effects. If you have questions about lead or copper health effects, please consult your doctor.

Lead: Although other sources of lead exposure exist, such as lead paint, and lead contaminated dust, we are contacting you to reduce your risk of exposure to lead in drinking water. Infants and children who drink water containing lead could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Copper: Copper is an essential nutrient; however, some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's disease should consult their personal doctor.

This notice is being sent to you by the City of Kalamazoo.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.