“Yeah but, is my water safe?”

Covering the Flint Water Crisis and it’s impact on other Michigan cities

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MICHIGAN RADIO

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91.7 FM Ann Arbor/Detroit 104.1 FM West Michigan 91.1 FM Flint
Little bit about Michigan Radio

• 3 broadcast signals covering nearly all of lower Michigan
• 524,500 listeners a week
• 350,000 unique page views a month
• 33,200 contributing members
“Yeah but, is my water safe?”

• Depends on where you are
• Lead service lines
• Lead/brass plumbing
• Flush/filters
• Testing issues
How do lead levels in other major Michigan cities compare to Flint?

The 90th percentile is the value 90% of lead tests fall below for a given testing cycle. The EPA action level for 90th percentiles is 15 ppb.
This is a house with a lead service line.
What we found in specific cities

• Locating lead lines in big cities
• Partial replacements – Grand Rapids, Dearborn, Detroit
• Goosenecks – Ann Arbor, Traverse City, Muskegon
• Outliers: Battle Creek, Beverly Hills, Romulus
Dumb and Dangerous rule update

• Most aggressive Lead and Copper Rule in U.S. (No real movement from U.S. EPA)
• “Action level” 15 parts per billion to 12 ppb in 2025
• Communities must (find and) pay to replace full line – no partials
• Communities have 20 years to replace lead lines – exceptions
• Sampling 1\textsuperscript{st} and 5\textsuperscript{th} draw from lead lines