



March 31, 2025

Dear East Selkirk Resident,

**Re: Free Water Testing for Lead in Drinking Water**

The RM of St. Clements East Selkirk Public Water System is offering free residential testing for lead in drinking water. The Province of Manitoba and the RM of St. Clements strongly recommend that you test your drinking water for lead.

Lead exposure can effect the health of everyone, but fetuses, infants and young children are the most sensitive to lead exposure. The Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines state that lead concentration in drinking water should not exceed 0.005 mg/L and recommends that child care providers and schools test their drinking water for lead.

Water from the East Selkirk Water Treatment Plant meets the lead limit guidelines and uses high density poly ethylene (HDPE) distribution and service pipes to provide water to residences; however, lead can enter drinking water from residential lead based plumbing materials. Elevated lead concentrations at the tap are more likely in older homes, built before 1950, but lead was used in copper solder until the 1990's and may still be present in plumbing fixtures. Testing the drinking water in your home will help the RM of St. Clements assess whether lead is present in residential drinking water and the best course of action to take if it exceeds guidelines.

If you are interested in this free testing, please phone, email, or visit the RM of St. Clements Office to request your sample bottles and instructions on sample collection. Residents must return collected samples to the RM Office at 1043 Kittson Road during regular office hours between July 23 and July 30, 2025. The RM will transport all samples to the lab and cover the costs of the analysis.

You will receive the results of your drinking water test. If your drinking water has elevated lead levels, the RM of St. Clements will provide you with advice on how you can reduce lead in your drinking water.

The RM of St. Clements website <https://rmofstclements.com/water/> has details on the lead in drinking water testing program and the Province of Manitoba website provides additional details on lead in drinking water: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/water/drinking-water/lead/index.html>

Sincerely,

The East Selkirk Public Water System

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