



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Water filters for Superfund residents in East Chicago

- **Why are drinking water filters being distributed to residents in in the USS Lead Superfund site in East Chicago?**

Drinking water in East Chicago meets all Safe Drinking Water Act standards and has been in compliance with U.S. EPA's Lead and Copper Rule since 1993. Out of an abundance of caution for residents in the USS Lead Superfund site, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has contracted with a private company that will provide water filter installation along with two additional replacement cartridges. This work is expected to begin during the **week of April 10th** and conclude no later than April 30th.

U.S. EPA is planning to resume soil excavation work in Zones 2 and 3 in early May. Remediation activities sometimes disturb lead water lines, and there is a chance that small particles of lead can break off and get into the water. The filters are designed to protect residents in the Superfund site from this construction-related risk.

- **When will I receive a filter?**

IDEM has contracted with **North American Aqua Environmental, LLC**, to install filters. There is **no cost** for the filter or installation. North American Aqua Environmental staff will distribute and install the filters by going door-to-door. North American Aqua staff will begin installing filters during **the week of April 10th**. It is expected to take **2 to 3 weeks for all residents to be contacted for filter installation**.

- **How many filters will I receive?**

IDEM will provide one filter per household along with two additional replacement filter cartridges. This is only for households in Zones 2 and 3.

- **Where will the filter be installed in my house?**

The filter needs to be installed at a faucet that is frequently used for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula. Your filter will most likely be installed at your kitchen tap.

- **What type of filters are being provided?**

IDEM is providing drinking water filters that will attach to the faucet. These filters allow the water to flow through adsorption material which captures contaminants such as lead. If your faucet is not able to have a filter mounted to it, then you will receive a water pitcher filter.

All filters distributed by IDEM will have the NSF/ANSI 53 certification. NSF/ANSI-53 filters are specifically certified to remove 99% of lead. You will receive a PUR Model FM-3333B (see image below) faucet filter mount along with two replacement cartridges (RF-3375). *The faucet mount filter may come in white or black.



The water filter mount **does not attach to extendable faucets**. If you have an extendable faucet, you will receive a ZeroWater Pitcher Filter along with 2 ZeroWater replacement filters (ZR-017).

- **How long will my filter last?**

The PUR Model FM-3333B filter is rated to last up to 100 Gallons, which is about one month of normal water usage. There is a built-in electronic filter life indicator that indicates when the filter needs to be changed. It is critical that the filters are changed on time.

- **Where can I purchase replacement cartridges?**

You will receive 2 additional replacement cartridges along with your filter. You can purchase replacement cartridges at local or online retailers. The replacement cartridges for faucet filters are model RF-3375; the replacement cartridges for water pitchers are model ZR-017.

- **What about unfiltered tap water?**

Only water from the cold-water tap should be used for drinking, cooking, and especially for making baby formula. Run cold water until it becomes as cold as it can get. Only cold water should be run through filters. Hot water is likely to contain higher levels of lead.

Unfiltered tap water can be used to wash dishes, clothes, and to clean homes. It can also be used for showers and children's baths as human skin does not absorb lead in water.

- **I did not receive a filter, who can I contact?**

If you did not receive a filter by April 30, 2017, please contact North American Aqua at 800-833-5553.