



Village of Mount Prospect **Press Release**

City of Chicago Transitions to Orthophosphate Water Treatment

DATE: December 10, 2024
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The City of Chicago will soon modify its water treatment process by transitioning from using blended phosphates to orthophosphates. This change aims to strengthen the protective coating inside lead service lines, further reducing lead levels in drinking water for customers with lead service lines or lead-containing plumbing components.

Residents of Mount Prospect receiving water from the Village-owned water distribution system may be affected by this adjustment. However, residents served by the Illinois American Water system will not be impacted, as their water comes from the Village of Glenview, which purchases water from the Village of Wilmette. Wilmette treats Lake Michigan water for Glenview, Illinois American, and other regional customers. For more information on Illinois American's water quality, visit amwater.com/ilwater.

For years, the City of Chicago has used blended phosphates to form a protective barrier inside lead service lines, reducing lead exposure. The switch to orthophosphate treatment is expected to maintain this protection and further enhance lead reduction efforts based on guidance from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA).

Why Orthophosphate?

Phosphates create a protective barrier between plumbing fixtures and water, preventing metals such as lead from dissolving into the water supply. Orthophosphate is a naturally occurring, food-grade additive widely used by water treatment plants across the country, including other facilities on Lake Michigan. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) considers orthophosphate safe for human consumption.

Transition Timeline

Starting in mid-December, the City of Chicago will begin decreasing the amount of polyphosphates and increasing the level of orthophosphates in its water treatment process. This phased transition will continue until the treatment process exclusively uses orthophosphates by next summer.

What to Expect

The City of Chicago has assured suburban water customers that they will not experience changes in water quality or daily water service during the transition. The Mount Prospect Public Works Department will closely monitor Chicago's implementation plan to ensure water quality and safety remain consistent.

As with any water system change, temporary and minor water discoloration may occur. If this happens, residents served by the Mount Prospect-owned water distribution system are encouraged to contact the Public Works Department at **847-870-5640** or submit a service request through the **mpDelivers** application on the Village website at www.mountprospect.org.

Learn More

Additional information about Chicago's transition to orthophosphate treatment can be found on the City of Chicago's Frequently Asked Questions page at www.chicagowaterquality.org.

For further updates, follow the Village of Mount Prospect's official website and social media platforms.

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