

The Briarcliff Water System

Q & A regarding: The crisis in Flint.



The current, and extensive, national and local news coverage of the Flint water crisis no doubt may have some residents questioning whether something similar could happen with our own system here in Briarcliff. Following is some information which will hopefully answer any anticipated questions and quell any possible concerns:

Q: Where do we get our water from?

A: The drinking water delivered to your home comes from an aquifer. Aquifers are underground layers of rock that are saturated with water that can be brought to the surface through natural springs or by pumping. We pump ours up.

Q: Is there lead in our water?

A: No. Lead is not present in water. Lead can leach *into* water, as it did in Flint, when corrosive water passes through aging pipes. Our source water is pure, not corrosive.

Q: But don't we also have an aging infrastructure?

A: Yes and no. The builder of our subdivision in 1954 constructed each home with a 3/4" COPPER service line. Although each originally had galvanized plumbing inside the home, many have updated to more preferable copper pipes. Prior to 1983 there was a very small amount of lead used in the solder of copper piping, so it is possible, but not probable, than an individual home may have trace lead in their water.

Q: Do we test for lead?

A: Yes. The MDEQ requires, in addition to the normal monthly bacteria testing, that we test for Lead and Copper every three years. Ten homes are tested on a regular basis. These homes represent different location points in the water distribution system. In some cases, very, very, minute traces have been found in a specific home, but nothing to be concerned about or for which treatment is required.

Q: Why would one home test positive and not another?

A: It most likely is a result of their individual home's plumbing. Again, lead was present in solder prior to 1983, so any plumbing repairs done on copper pipes or any new installation prior to that time more than likely included soldering of some type.

Q: Should I be concerned about my galvanized plumbing?

A: Probably....but not because of contamination. Galvanized plumbing is not soldered, it's threaded. But galvanized plumbing also corrodes over time reducing the water flow within the homes' plumbing.. If your pipes corrode and get significant sediment, your water may change color and the pressure may be down because the water can't get through....much like plaque in an artery! The scale can collect in, and block your faucet aerators. But it is NOT harmful and does NOT present a health risk.

How pipes corrode



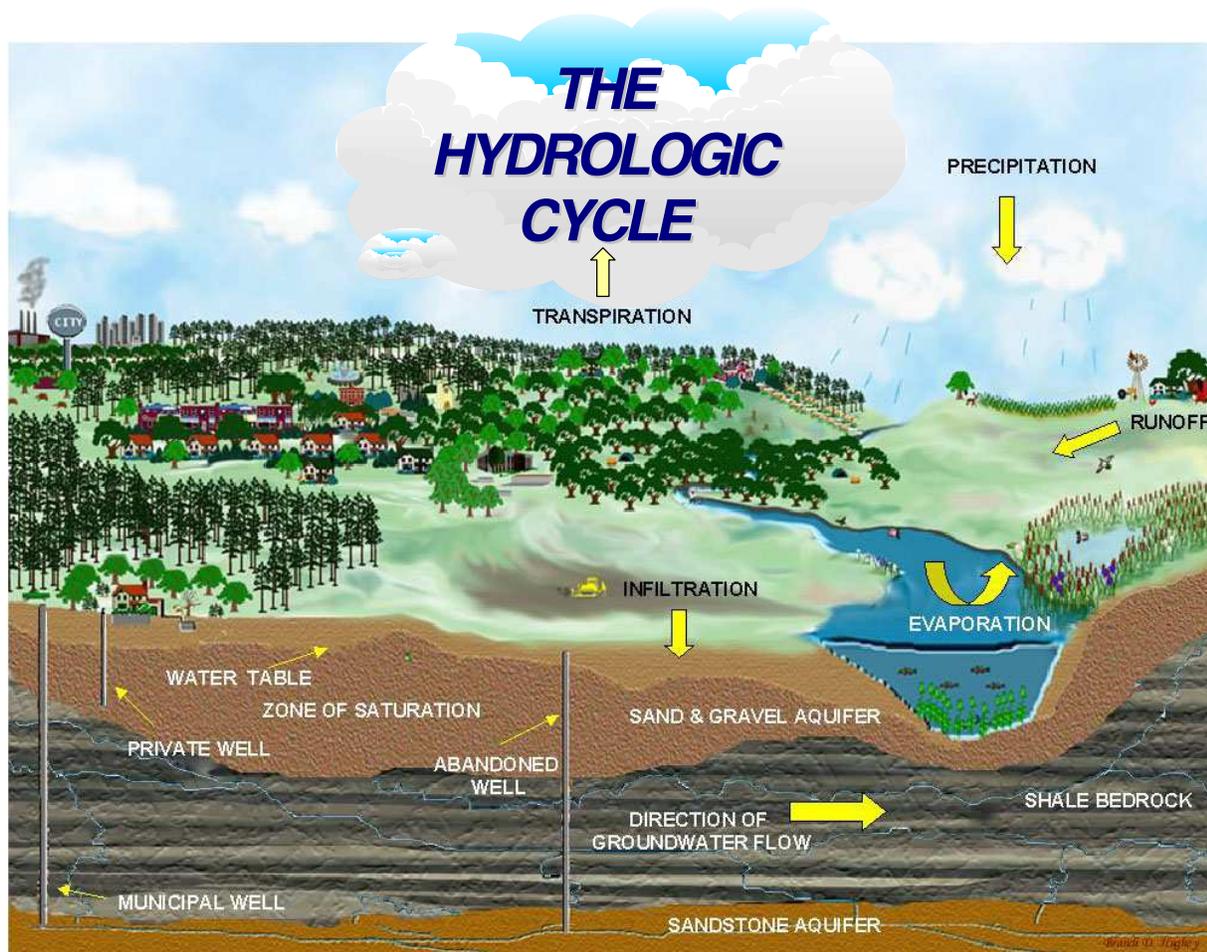
Q: Can I test for lead myself?

A: Yes. A Lead Testing Kit is available from the MDEQ Lansing laboratory for \$26. Call 517.335.8184 if interested.

Q: Where can I get more information?

A: If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact your Water Service Manager, Dan Gordon at 248-421-3184.

Additionally, several resources are available online. Our Water Quality Report can be accessed on the Briarcliff Website, ebriarcliff.org, under the "Water" tab. The graphic below further explains how an aquifer works.



Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

- Briarcliff Board of Directors