## How can I reduce my exposure to lead in water?

1. **Let the water run** before using it for drinking or cooking. If you have a lead service line, let the water run for 3-5 minutes. If you do not have a lead service line, let the water run for 30-60 seconds. The more time water has been sitting in your pipes, the more lead it may contain.
2. **Use cold water** for drinking, making food, and making baby formula. Hot water releases more lead from pipes than cold water. Boiling water does not reduce lead levels and may actually increase them.
3. **Test your water**. The only way to know if lead has been reduced by letting it run is to check with a test. If letting the water run does not reduce lead, consider other options to reduce your exposure.
4. **Treat your water** or find an alternative source if a test shows your water has high levels of lead after you let the water run. You can learn more about water treatment options at [Home Water Treatment (https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/hometreatment.html).](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/hometreatment.html)
5. **Remove or replace** older plumbing components with lead free plumbing including lead service line.

## What are we doing to identify lead service lines in our water system?

[Add an explanation about how your system is conducting its lead service line inventory.]

### For more information

For more information, call us at

[Insert phone number].

Visit our website at [Insert website].

This notice is being sent to you by

[Insert name of water system].

PWSID # [Insert number]

Date Distributed: [mm/dd/yyyy]

[Please review areas highlighted in yellow to add details specific to your system. Adding details may change the layout of the brochure and reformatting may be needed. Recommend printing a test copy of your final version. Printer settings may vary - Print on both sides, flipping along the short edge of the brochure - **Remove these instructions before printing final version**]

[Insert logo or remove]

# Lead Service Line Inventory Information



[Insert name of water system] will be conducting an inventory of service line materials in order to identify potential service lines that may need replacement to reduce lead in drinking water.

Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

## What is a service line? How can I tell if it needs replacing?

You can find out if you have a lead service line by contacting us, or by using the “Do you have lead pipes in your home?” app on the NPR website: [Do you have lead pipes in your home? (https://apps.npr.org/find-lead-pipes-in-your-home/en/#intro)](https://apps.npr.org/find-lead-pipes-in-your-home/en/#intro).

Even though you may be able to see part of the service line in your home it may not represent materials along the whole service line and additional investigation may be needed.

Once we complete our inventory, we will notify you if you have a service line that needs replacement due to concerns about lead exposure or if we don’t know the materials in your service line.

[Add an explanation about how your system will determine if lines need replacing and how you will address unknown service lines - service visit, customer survey, historical records etc. If you have already completed your inventory, provide information on how they can access information about the inventory.]

## Who owns the service line?

[Add an explanation about who owns the service line in your community - sole ownership, joint ownership.]

## If service lines need to be replaced, how will that happen?

[Add information about your lead service line replacement plan. Will you apply for funding to help homeowners with the cost of replacement? If a customer replaces the portion of service line, they own when will the system replace the portion they own (within 45 days)? Describe impact to home/yard that can be expected during replacement activities.]

## Are there risks to replacing a service line?

**Full replacement vs. Partial Replacement**

A full lead service line replacement means that any portion of service line considered to be a source of lead is replaced with a non-lead material. A partial service line replacement means that a portion of the service line was removed, but some of it is still there. While partial replacements may mean less resources on time on the systems and your behalf, it does not remove the source of corrosion. For systems to meet the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act and reduce the risk of lead exposure throughout, they will be working to conduct full replacements of service lines.

There is risk of temporarily increased lead levels in the water that can be reduced by using a filter and flushing the lines after replacement.

Homes can still have lead in test results due to lead contained in home plumbing even if lead has been reduced with a replacement of a service line. Property owners are responsible for lead plumbing inside their home.

## What are the benefits of replacement?

* Reduced risk of lead exposure from water
* Potential selling point
* Reduce risk of future service line failure or break.

## What are the health effects of lead?

There is no safe level of lead exposure.

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems.

## What are the sources of lead in drinking water?

Water coming from our treatment plant is lead free. Lead can get into drinking water after it leaves the treatment plant, as it passes through your household plumbing system. Homes built before 1940 may have lead service lines or galvanized steel service lines with lead connectors that connect them to public water.

Home plumbing installed or built before 1986 may have lead parts. New “lead free” pipes and plumbing parts may still contain 0.25% lead. The amount of lead that gets into in drinking water depends on many factors, such as the amount of lead in plumbing materials, water chemistry, and water usage. **The longer water remains in contact with lead plumbing the more likely it is to get into water.**

*Even after a service line is removed it will still be important to mitigate lead released from other sources inside the home or remove them entirely.*