

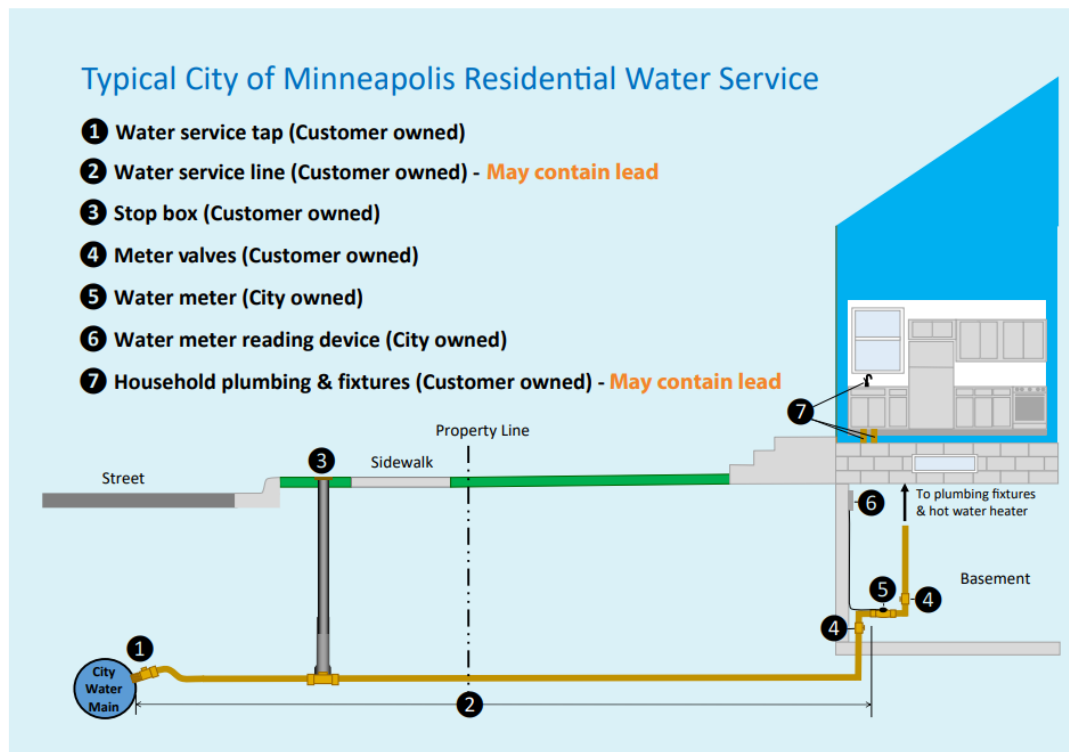
October 16, 2025

RE: Notification of Your Water Service Line Material

Dear Valued Customer:

The City of Minneapolis is focused on protecting the health of every household in our community. This notice contains important information about your drinking water. Please share this information with anyone who drinks and/or cooks using water at this property.

The network of water distribution mains that run in the streets throughout the City of Minneapolis are made of iron and steel and are not lead. The City is working to identify service line materials throughout the water system and has determined that as of October 1st 2025, the water pipe (called a service line) that connects your home or business to the water main is made from **unknown material** but may be lead. In some cases, a portion of the service line may have been identified as non-lead, but it is still classified as unknown until the entire length of the service line has been identified. Because your service line material is unknown, there is the potential that some or all the service line could be made of lead or galvanized pipe that was previously connected to lead.



People living in homes with a lead or galvanized pipe previously connected to a lead service line have an increased risk of exposure to lead from their drinking water. If you have information that could help us better describe your service line, contact us at 612-673-5600.

You can find information about service lines by address at <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/resident-services/utility-services/water/water-quality/water-quality-lead/plumbing-faucets/lead-service-line-map/>.

Identifying service line material

To help determine if the pipe that connects your home to the water main (called a service line) is made from lead, galvanized, or other materials, residents may reach out to our water services assistance line at 612-673-5600. In addition, EPA has developed an online step-by-step guide to help people identify lead pipes in their homes called [Protect Your Tap: A Quick Check for Lead](https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/protect-your-tap-quick-check-lead) (<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/protect-your-tap-quick-check-lead>).

Alternatively, you can also follow this link: [Protect Your Tap: A quick check for lead](https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/protect-your-tap-quick-check-lead-0) (<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/protect-your-tap-quick-check-lead-0>) to find lead pipes in your home.

Health effects of lead

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 worsen existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these negative health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, and kidney, or nervous system problems.

Steps you can take to reduce lead in drinking water

It is important to know the City treats the water in way that prevents lead from getting into the water. We add a compound (orthophosphate) that creates a protective coating in pipes. Below are recommended actions that you may take, separately or in combination, if you are concerned about lead in your drinking water. The list also includes links where you may find more information and is not intended to be a complete list or to imply that all actions equally reduce lead in drinking water.

Run your water. The more time water has been sitting in pipes providing water to your home, the more lead it may contain. Before drinking, flush your home's pipes by running the tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or doing a load of dishes. The amount of time to run the water will depend on whether your home has a lead service line or not, as well as the length and diameter of the service line and the amount of plumbing in your home but typically, 3 minutes is sufficient. In the winter months, when water temperatures are colder, you can feel the temperature change when fresh water has reached the tap. Visit the city website at www.minneapolismn.gov/home-flushing for information about how to flush your home plumbing.

Use cold water. Do not use hot water from the tap for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula as lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Boiling water does not remove lead from water.

Clean your aerator. Regularly remove and clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator). Sediment, debris, and lead particles can collect in your aerator. If lead particles are caught in the



aerator, lead can get into your water.

Use a filter. Using a filter can reduce lead in drinking water. If you use a filter, it should be certified to remove lead. Read any directions provided with the filter to learn how to properly install, maintain, and use your filter and when to replace it. Using the filter after it has expired can make it less effective at removing lead. Do not run hot water through the filter. For more information on facts and advice on home water filtration systems, visit EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/consumer-tool-identifying-point-use-and-pitcher-filters-certified-reduce-lead>.

Have your water tested.

If you would like to have your water tested, contact us at <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/lead-testing/water-lead-test-kit/> to receive a free test kit via the mail with a sample container and instructions on how to submit a sample. Alternatively, you can contact a Minnesota Department of Health accredited laboratory <https://eldo.web.health.state.mn.us/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam> to purchase a sample container and instructions on how to submit a sample. Note, a water sample may not adequately capture or represent all sources of lead that may be present. For information on sources of lead that include service lines and interior plumbing, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water#getinto>.

Understand blood lead testing

In Minnesota, elevated blood lead levels are most associated with lead exposure from lead paint and dust. Water is rarely the cause of elevated blood lead levels. If you have concerns about childhood lead exposure, check with your family doctor, pediatrician, or health care provider to determine if a blood test for lead is recommended. State, city, or county departments of health can also provide information about health effects of lead and how you can have your child's blood tested for lead. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that public health actions be initiated when the level of lead in a child's blood is 3.5 micrograms per deciliter (µg/dL) or more. For more information and links to CDC's website, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water> MDH also has info at <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/families.html>.

Replacing lead service lines

In the City of Minneapolis, the entire water service line is privately-owned. Until recently, public funds could not be used to replace private infrastructure like water service lines. Last year, the City of Minneapolis began targeting water service lines that contain lead, galvanized steel requiring replacement, or unknown materials for replacement based on the following criteria:

- **Targeting areas with lower-income residents and other disadvantaged communities.**
- **Targeting areas with children with elevated blood lead levels.**
- **Coordinating the replacement of lead service lines with other capital improvement projects for the most efficient use of grant funding.**

It is important to note that the City's replacement effort is not an open "opt-in" program. State legislation requires the City to prioritize project areas based on the above criteria.

The effort to replace lead service lines began in 2023 and will be an ongoing City program until every property owner with a lead service line is offered the opportunity to have it replaced. To learn more about the City's lead service line replacement project visit

<https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/projects/lead-service-lines/>.

If a property owner wishes to replace their lead service line before their property is in one of the City's designated project areas, they may do so at their own expense by contracting directly with a licensed plumbing contractor. Alternatively, the property owner may authorize the City to hire a licensed plumbing contractor to replace the lead service line. In doing so, the property owner agrees either to reimburse the City directly for the replacement costs or to have any unpaid portion assessed as a special tax on the property.

Sincerely,



Annika M. Bankston, P.E.

Director – Water Treatment & Distribution Services
City of Minneapolis – Public Works

For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please contact Minneapolis Water Distribution at 612-673-5600. People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users call 612-263-6850. Para ayuda, llame al 311. Rau kev pab, hu 311. Hadii aad caawimaad u baahantahay, wac 311.