

June 30, 2025

[Address]

SUBJECT: Notification that your water service line material is unknown and may contain lead



Dear Water Customer:

Your drinking water service line material is unknown, but the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) is working toward identifying service line materials throughout the water supply. Because your service line pipe material is unknown at the time of this letter, there is the potential that some or all of the line could be made of lead or galvanized pipe that was previously connected to lead. This notice is required annually by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy (EGLE) for all cities with lead and galvanized service lines. This will serve as your notice for 2025.

This notification does not change the quality of the drinking water that you and your neighbors have received for several decades. However, people living in homes with a lead service line or galvanized pipe that was previously connected to lead have an increased risk of exposure to lead from their drinking water. As required by the EPA and EGLE, this letter serves to notify you of this risk and provides information to help you reduce your risk of lead exposure. Please share this information with anyone who drinks and/or cooks using water at this property. The service line feeds treated water into your home or business as indicated in the image below.



Verify Your Service Line Material
Use the online tool and submit your information

WHERE'S YOUR LINE?

Most of the City's water mains are in the front of a property. Mains are typically located under the street or under the grass between the sidewalk and street (the right of way berm).

WHO WILL FIX IT?

Property owners are responsible for the water service line from the water meter to the curbstop (turn-on/turn-off valve also called the stop box) near the sidewalk. The City is responsible for the portion from the curbstop to the water main.

LEAD WATER LINE?

If your water service line is lead, it will be replaced from the meter in your house to the water main. This is done when the water main on your street is replaced or the City is in your neighborhood doing lead service line replacements.

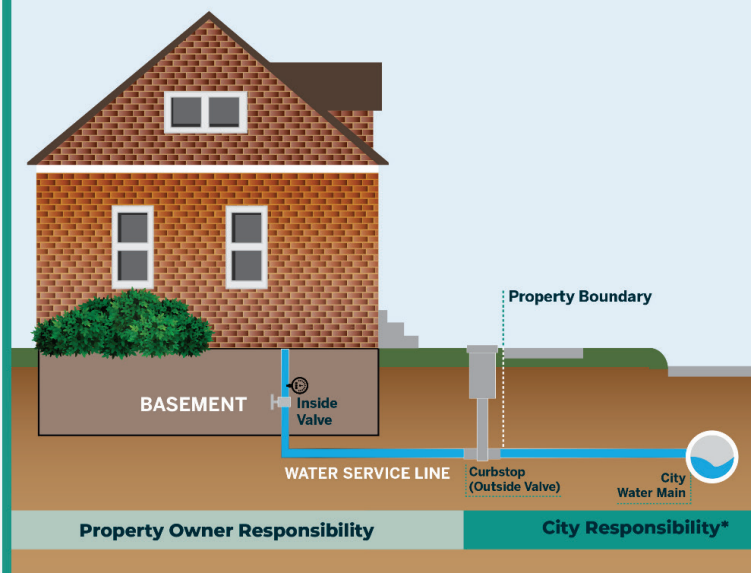
DON'T HAVE A LINE?

*If the water service line does not exist or is not connected, you may be responsible for hiring a plumber and pulling permits to have a new water service line installed from the City's water main to the house.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL
313-267-8000**
or visit www.detroitmi.gov/DWSD

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AND OURS THE WATER LINE TO YOUR HOME



Where lead is encountered

The water leaving Detroit water treatment plants, operated by the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA), does not contain lead, but lead can be released into drinking water from lead service lines, lead solder and home plumbing as the water moves from the water mains to your tap. Beginning in 1945, Detroit stopped allowing the installation of lead piping for water service lines. Homes built before 1945 are most likely to have a lead pipe that connects the home to the water main, known as a lead service line, unless it has already been replaced with a copper service line. The lead in lead service lines, lead solder, household plumbing and fixtures can dissolve or break off into water and end up in tap water.

The water provided to DWSD customers contains a food-grade additive to reduce leaching from lead service lines and other lead components, but lead can still be present in water at the tap. As of October 2024, GLWA increased the dosage of this additive at all treatment facilities to further protect the drinking water.

Learn about the 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 exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of persons 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.



Source: Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy

Steps you can take to reduce your exposure to lead in your water

Below are recommended actions you may take, separately or in combination, to reduce your exposure to lead in your drinking water. The list also includes 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.

- **Consider using a lead-reducing filter.** The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recommends Michigan households use a certified lead-reducing drinking water filter if your home has or if you are uncertain if it has a source of lead, such as one of the following:
 - A lead service line carrying water from the street to your residence.
 - Lead or galvanized plumbing.
 - Copper plumbing with lead solder before 1988 (EGLE recommendation).
 - Old faucets and fittings that were sold before 2014.
 - Use the filter until you are able to remove sources of household lead plumbing, such as:
 - Replace pre-2014 faucets.
 - Get a lead inspection and replace needed plumbing.
 - Look for filters that are tested and certified to NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for lead reduction and NSF/ANSI Standard 42 for particulate reduction (Class I).
 - For filters to work properly, follow the manufacturer's instructions.

DWSD provides pitcher filters and cartridges sufficient for six months of protection when crews are on the neighborhood block inspecting or replacing lead service lines or replacing the water main.
- **Run your water to flush out lead-containing water.** The more time water has been sitting in your home's pipes, the more lead it may contain. Therefore, if your water has not been used for several hours, run the water before using it for drinking or cooking. This flushes lead-containing water from the pipes. Because it is not known whether your home has a lead service line or galvanized service line that was previously connected to lead, run the water for at least five minutes to flush water from your home or building's plumbing and the lead service line.
- **Use cold water for drinking and cooking.** Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily into hot water.
- **Boiling water does not remove lead from water.** Filter cold water, then boil the filtered water as necessary.
- **Clean your aerator.** The aerator on the end of your faucet is a screen that catches debris. This debris may include particulate lead. The aerator should be removed at least every six months to rinse out any debris.
- **Check for other sources of lead.** In addition to your service line, other plumbing in your home may contain lead and could increase the levels of lead in your drinking water. These may include faucets, valves, and soldered joints. It is recommended that homeowners contact a licensed plumber and have a plumbing assessment done to determine if your in-home plumbing is a source of lead in your drinking water.
- **Test your water for lead.** If you wish to get your drinking water tested, call DWSD at 313-267-8000.
- **Learn about construction in your neighborhood.** Construction may cause more lead to be released from a lead service line or galvanized service line if present. DWSD provides door hanger notices and invites the public to community meetings prior to construction on your street. To see current projects, go to detroitmi.gov/DWSD.
- **Learn about your drinking water.** Read Detroit's Water Quality Report at detroitmi.gov/2024waterqualityreport or request a copy by contacting DWSD. Water customers receive a notice on your June bill when this annual report is published.

Get your child tested to determine lead levels in their blood

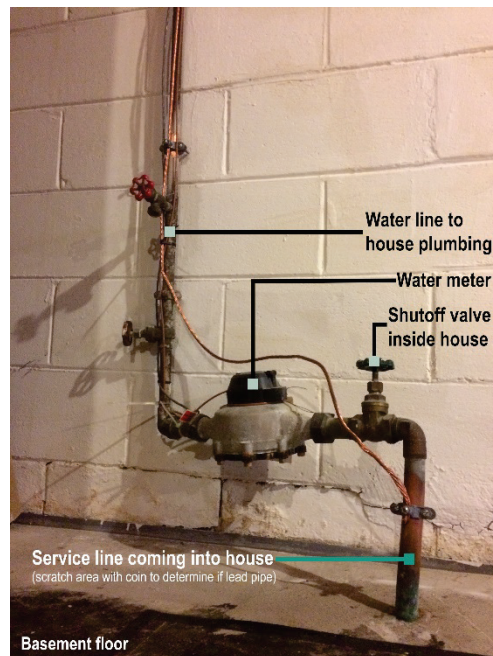
A family doctor or pediatrician can perform a blood test for lead and provide information about the health effects of lead. The Detroit Health Department can also provide information about how you can have your child's blood tested for lead. You may contact them at 313-876-0133. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention recommends public health actions when the level of lead in a child's blood is 3.5 micrograms per deciliter (µg/dL) or more. For more information, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>.

How Detroit is replacing lead service lines

Water suppliers in Michigan are actively identifying and replacing service lines that contain lead and galvanized previously connected to lead. All portions of the service line that contain lead and galvanized previously connected to lead that the water system owns, as well as the homeowner's portion, must be replaced at the water supply's expense. In Detroit, it will take about 10 years to replace the estimated 75,000 lead service lines. Since 2018, DWSD has replaced nearly 15,000 lead service lines and continues to go neighborhood-by-neighborhood, prioritizing the most vulnerable households. Learn more at detroitmi.gov/LSLR.

Partial replacement of service lines, where there is still lead or galvanized previously connected to lead materials remaining when service is restored, are banned due to increased lead exposure and potential health risks, except in the case of emergencies like a leak or loss of pressure.

If you have an issue with your side of the service line (generally, from the curb stop to the inside of your home), contact DWSD **first** to coordinate efforts and fully replace the service line. If an emergency repair is necessary, take additional precautionary measures to reduce potential exposure to lead during replacement or construction.



Learn About Our
Lead Service Line
Replacement Program



View the
Detroit Service
Line Map

Contact us

Please contact DWSD at 313-267-8000 if you have questions regarding this letter or have information or photos indicating a different type of pipe material. At the phone prompts, you may say, "service line." You may also go to detroitmi.gov/waterservicelinemap to zoom in by address to see your service line material based on our current data.

For additional information about your water system or a copy of Detroit's Annual Water Quality Report, email dwsd-publicaffairs@detroitmi.gov or go to detroitmi.gov/DWSD.