

Detroit Water and Sewerage Department

735 Randolph Street

Detroit, MI 48226

313-267-8000 • detroitmi.gov/DWSD



November 4, 2024

Dear Detroit water customer:

This notice is for [service address] from the Detroit Water & Sewerage Department (DWSD). Please read the included document carefully.

Notice of Unknown Service Line Material

Public Water System Name: Detroit Water & Sewerage Department (DWSD) **PWS ID No.:** WSN-1800

Service Line Location: [service address]

Dear Drinking Water Consumer,

Our public water system, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD), is focused on providing safe, affordable drinking water to 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. In addition to the people directly served at this property, this could and should include people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, businesses, as well as parents served by childcare at this property.

We have been working to identify service line materials throughout the water system and it has been determined that either a portion of, or the entire water pipe (called a service line) that connects your home, building, or other structure to the City's water main is made from **unknown material** but may be lead. Because your service line material is unknown, there is the potential that some or all of 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 questions concerning any of the information provided in this notice, or if you have information that could help us better describe your service line, contact us via:

Water System Contact Information:

DWSD Customer Service: [313-267-8000](tel:313-267-8000)

Email: DWSD-PublicAffairs@detroitmi.gov

DWSD Website: <https://detroitmi.gov/DWSD>

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

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 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.

- **Use your filter properly.** Using a filter can reduce lead in drinking water. If you use a filter, it should be certified to remove lead, such as the NSF53 rating. Read any directions provided with the filter to learn how to properly install, maintain, and use your cartridge and when to replace it. Using the cartridge 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>.
- **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 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. In the event DWSD issues a boil water advisory due to low water pressure (such as caused by a large water main break), water users in the designated advisory area will be advised to boil 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, between 5-10 minutes, 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.
- **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. Contact us to find out about any construction or maintenance work that may disturb your service line. When DWSD replaces a water main on your street or a lead service line, in advance of that construction, every occupied home on the block will receive a NSF53 pitcher filter and replacement cartridge sufficient for up to six months of protection.
- **Have your water tested.** Contact DWSD at 313-267-8000 or go to <https://detroitmi.gov/LSLR> to have your water tested and to learn more about the lead levels in your drinking water. 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>.

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 reach the health department at 313-876-0133. The Centers for Disease Control 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 and links to CDC's website, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>.

Verifying service line material

Walk through the steps to verify water service line material using this helpful web app from NPR at <https://apps.npr.org/find-lead-pipes-in-your-home/en/#intro>, or use the DWSD video at <https://detroitmi.gov/LSLR>. The DWSD service line material map is posted at <https://detroitmi.gov/waterservicelinemap>.

Replacing lead service lines

DWSD is replacing lead service lines in a neighborhood by neighborhood approach over the next 10 years, and it will take that time to get to every part of our city. We have accelerated the pace since May 2023 from 700 lines per year to replace 8,000 lead service lines annually. As of October 2024, DWSD has replaced 11,203 lead service lines in Detroit since it began this public health initiative in 2018, including 6,706 lines alone in 2024. You can see the list of neighborhoods and more detail about our program at <https://detroitmi.gov/LSLR>.

If you plan to replace the water service line at your own cost, please have your contractor apply for the required City of Detroit for permits. You can start at <https://detroitmi.gov/DWSDPermits> with the Water Tap Permit.

For more information on reducing lead exposure from your drinking water and the health effects of lead, visit <https://detroitmi.gov/leadsafe> or EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/lead>.