



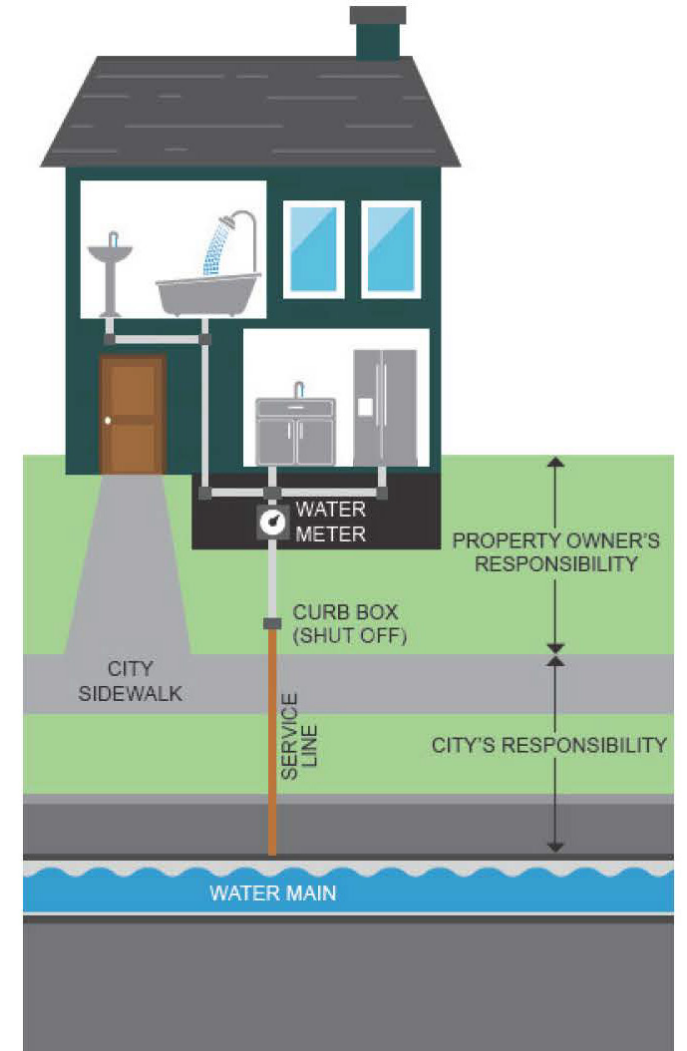
**Water & Sewerage  
Department**

# Lead Safe Detroit

November 19, 2019

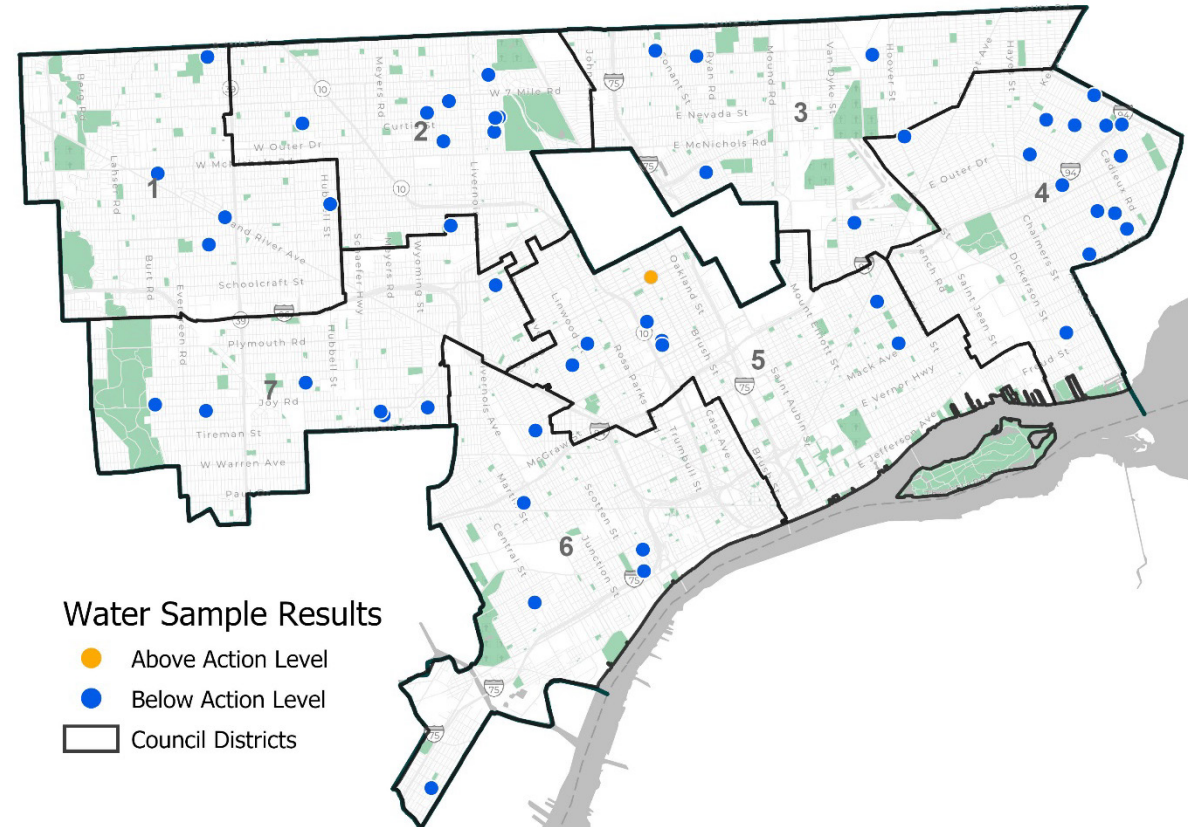
# DOES DETROIT'S WATER HAVE LEAD IN IT?

- The water leaving Detroit's water treatment plants, operated by the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA), **does not contain lead**.
- Lead can be released into drinking water from lead service lines and home plumbing as the water moves from the water mains to your tap.
- Detroit homes built prior to 1945 are more likely to have a lead pipe that connects the home to the water main.
- The water provided to Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) customers uses a corrosion inhibitor to reduce the leaching from lead service lines and plumbing fixtures.



# LEAD TESTING RESULTS FOR 2019

- This summer, DWSD collected water samples from 55 homes with lead service lines (50 was required).
- The 90th percentile of samples was **10 parts per billion (ppb) for lead**, which is under the federal and state action level of 15 ppb.
- One sample was above the action level and that homeowner has received a pitcher filter, flushing instructions, and plumbing inspection, and continued monitoring to help minimize lead in their drinking water.
- The last Lead and Copper Rule compliance testing for Detroit was conducted in 2016 and was 4 ppb (only testing the first liter of tap water).



# WHY THE INCREASE? THE TESTING PROTOCOL CHANGED

- The revised Michigan Lead and Copper Rule (enacted in June 2018) – the most stringent in the nation – changed the way samples are collected in Michigan.
- Instead of only the first liter of water tested, both the first and fifth liter are collected and tested.
- The first liter represents water from household plumbing and fixtures, and the fifth liter is more likely to represent water from the lead service line.
- The new sampling technique more accurately represents the range of lead in the drinking water.
- Under the revised Lead and Copper Rule, it's likely most communities in Michigan will have an increase in their results versus past years due to the change in sampling procedures.



# WHAT ARE THE PRIMARY SOURCES OF LEAD?

- Drinking water is not known to be the sole cause of elevated blood lead levels in Detroit homes.
- Older homes can have many other sources of lead exposure including paint, dust and soil which cause concern.
  - Lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust and soil are the greatest hazards to children and are nearly always identified as the major cause for children who test with an elevated blood lead level.
- Children six years old and younger can receive free testing at the Detroit Health Department.



# FLUSHING INSTRUCTIONS

- If your water has gone unused in the home for six hours or more, run the water for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before drinking.
- If you have a lead service line, let the water run 3-5 minutes to flush both the interior plumbing and the lead service line.
- Flushing allows you to draw fresh water from the main.
- You can also flush your pipes by running the dishwasher or washing a load of cloths.
- **Only use filtered or flushed cold water** for drinking, cooking and brushing your teeth.



Drinking or cooking?  
Always use cold water.



Have you checked your faucets lately?  
Remove and clean the aerators monthly.



Has your water not been used for six hours or more? Turn the water on from your faucet until it is cold and continue to run for an additional two minutes to get fresh water.



After you run the water, consider filling a pitcher with the fresh water to keep in your refrigerator for drinking.



Use a ANSI/NSF 53 certified filter or bottled water if preparing infant formula.



Was your home built before 1950 and is there a pregnant woman or a child under 6 years of age living in the home? Consider buying a filter that meets the ANSI/NSF 53 (National Sanitation Foundation) standard for lead removal.

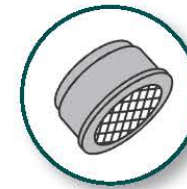


- Home improvement stores, department stores and online retailers sell these filters.
- Follow the manufacturer's guidelines for installing and maintaining the filter.

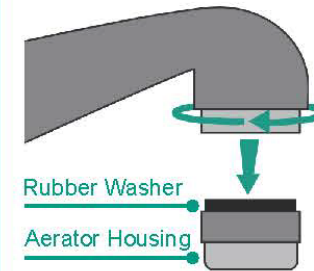
# CLEAN AERATORS MONTHLY

- Faucet aerators trap particles and should be cleaned monthly.
- Most aerators may be screwed off the faucet using your fingers.
- Remove, rinse and reinstall your faucet aerators.

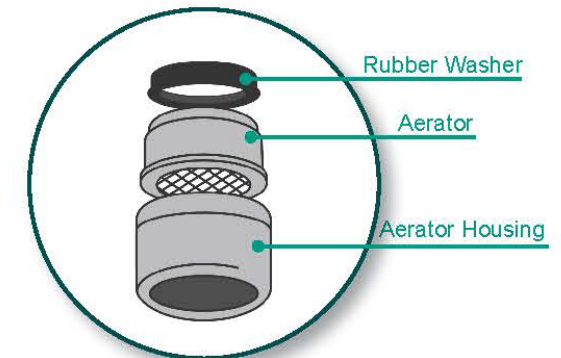
## WHAT IS A FAUCET AERATOR?



The aerator on the end of your faucet is a screen that will catch debris.

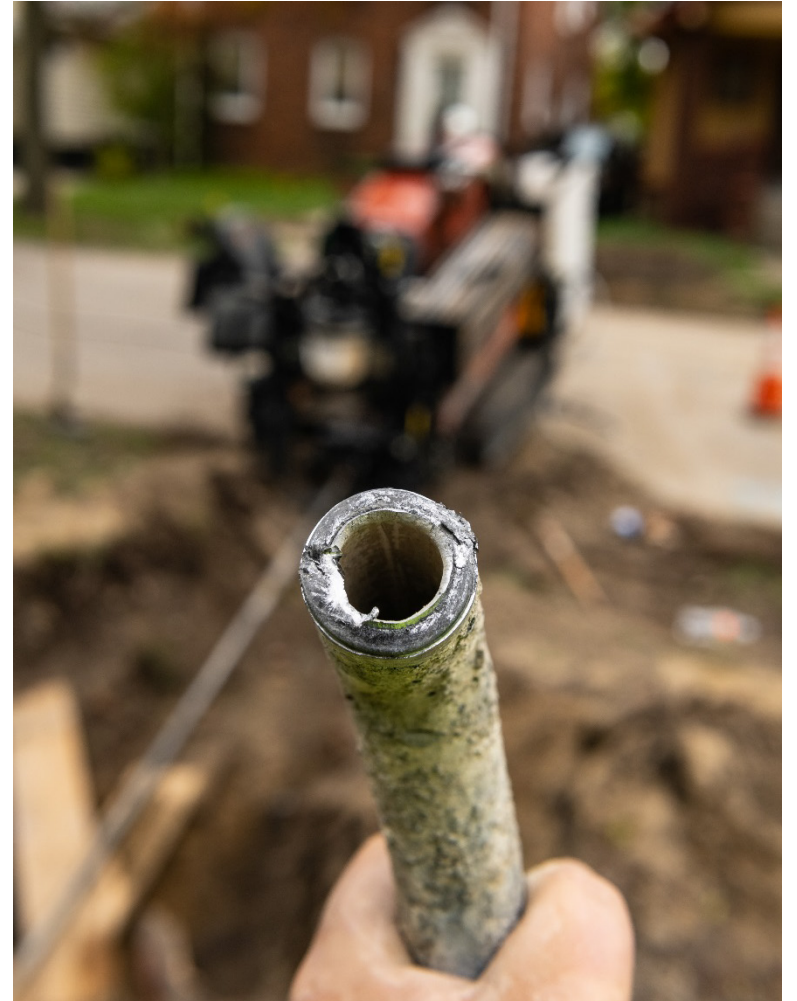


The aerators screw off from the end of your faucets by hand; you may need to use a wrench the first time. Brush and rinse the aerators before putting them back on.

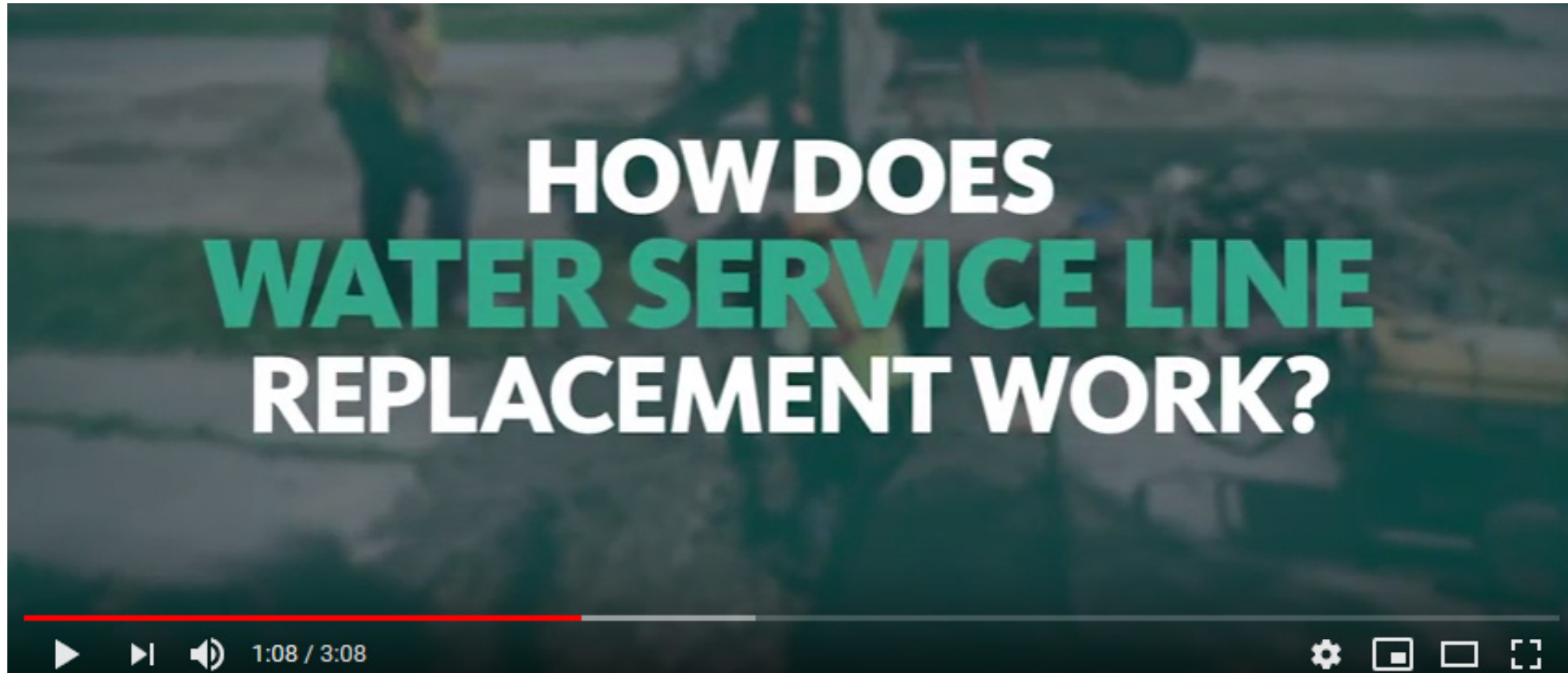


# WHAT IS DWSD DOING TO PROTECT US?

- Prior to the revised Michigan Lead and Copper Rule, DWSD began replacing lead service lines as part of its water main replacement program.
- More than 500 lead service lines have been replaced in Detroit during the past year.
- When replacing a water main, DWSD, since 2016, has been providing a pitcher filter and replacement cartridge (sufficient for six months) as a precautionary measure.
- DWSD conducts extensive customer outreach prior to water main and lead service line replacements.
- Homeowners/occupants must sign an agreement to allow DWSD to replace the lead service line on the private property.



## VIDEO: Lead Service Line Replacement





# LEAD SAFE



**Water & Sewerage  
Department**

**Web:** [detroitmi.gov/leadsafe](http://detroitmi.gov/leadsafe)

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