

Resident

December 1, 2025

RE: 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 we are working toward identifying service line materials throughout the water supply. Because your service line material is unknown, 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. People living in homes with a lead, or galvanized pipe previously connected to lead, service line have an increased risk of exposure to lead from their drinking water. 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.

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.

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, or galvanized service line previously connected to lead, 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.
-
- **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 will catch debris. This debris could 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 your water supply or use a certified lab. To find a certified lab, go to [Michigan.gov/EGLElab](https://www.michigan.gov/EGLElab) and click on "Certifications."
- **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.
- **Learn about your drinking water.** Read your water supply's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) that is mailed to you each year or find it at your local water utility's website.

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. State, city, or county departments of health can also provide information about how you can have your child's blood tested for lead. 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 ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$) 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>.

Contact us

For information about getting your service line material identified, questions about your water system, or for a copy of the City of Richmond's Annual Water Quality Report, please contact the Department of Public Works at 586.727.7575.

Sincerely,

Jim Goetzinger, P.E.
Public Service Director
586.727.7575
richmonddpw@comcast.net
www.cityofrichmond.net

1



Regulatory Agency Requirement

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy is now requiring community water supplies to submit a material list of all water system piping, including water service lines coming into commercial buildings and residential homes.

2



DPW Responsibility to Comply

The pipe material at each property must be verified. Wherever detailed records do not exist; verification must be through visual inspection of the pipe. This can be accomplished by locating the pipe where it enters the building or digging down to the pipe outside of the building.

3



We Need Your Help

There are over 2,500 active service lines in the City of Richmond. That is a lot of digging and home inspections by DPW staff and rather inconvenient for property owners. There is another way, but WE NEED YOUR HELP.

4



A Picture is worth a thousand words

... and a lot of time. Do you own a smartphone, use email, or know somebody who does? Send the City a picture of the water pipe where it enters your building. If we are able to identify the pipe material from the picture we will not need to dig up your yard or enter your building for an inspection.

5



How Do You Do That?

The next page of this flyer contains guidance on how to send a picture from your phone to info@cityofrichmond.net. If you already know how to send pictures via email or from your phone to an email then this process should be pretty easy for you.

See back for more details



Water Pipe Material Survey



6 Find your Water Line

Your water meter is usually very close to where your water pipe enters the building; look for that. If you have a basement, the water pipe could enter through the wall or the floor near the front of the house. If you are on a slab or a crawl space the pipe entry is often "hidden" in a utility closet or under a sink.

How to send Pictures

7 Take a picture

Make sure the pipe is clean;

Lightly clean a section of the pipe with sand paper or steel wool. Galvanized pipe is a dull "gray" color. Copper is shiny "copper" color. Lead is shiny "silvery" color.

Put a magnet on the pipe;

Only galvanized steel pipe is magnetic. If the magnet sticks, show that in the picture.

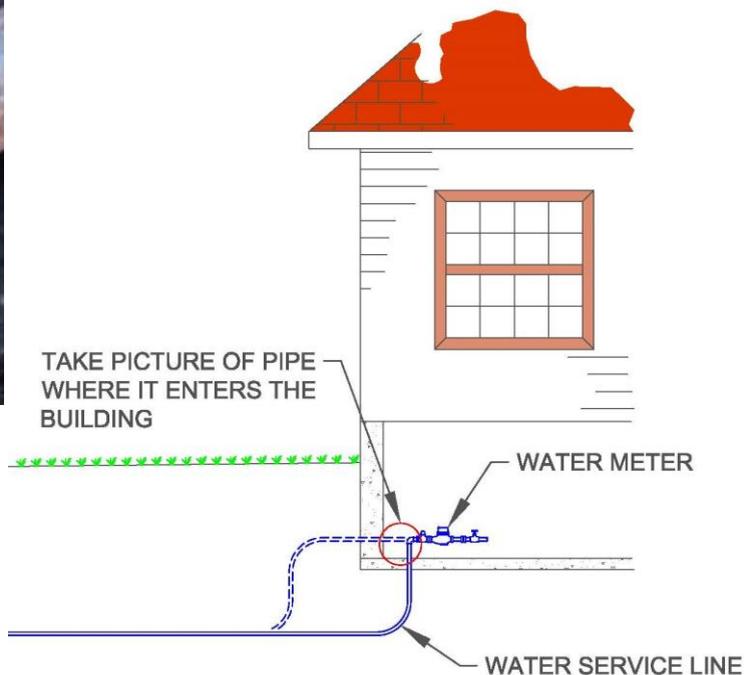
Pipe fittings often help identify the material type;

Try to include a connection to a valve or water meter in the picture as an identification aid.

Take the picture from about 2' away.

8 Send us the picture via text message

From your picture viewer select the picture and find the "share" icon. Share the picture in a text message. In the "recipient" section; type info@cityofrichmond.net. Make sure to include the property address that corresponds to the picture somewhere in the "body" of the message. Your phone may be a little different. **If you have questions or need assistance please call DPW at 586.727.7575.**



See front for more details