

## EPA's Revised Lead and Copper Rule: Developing and Maintaining a Service Line Inventory

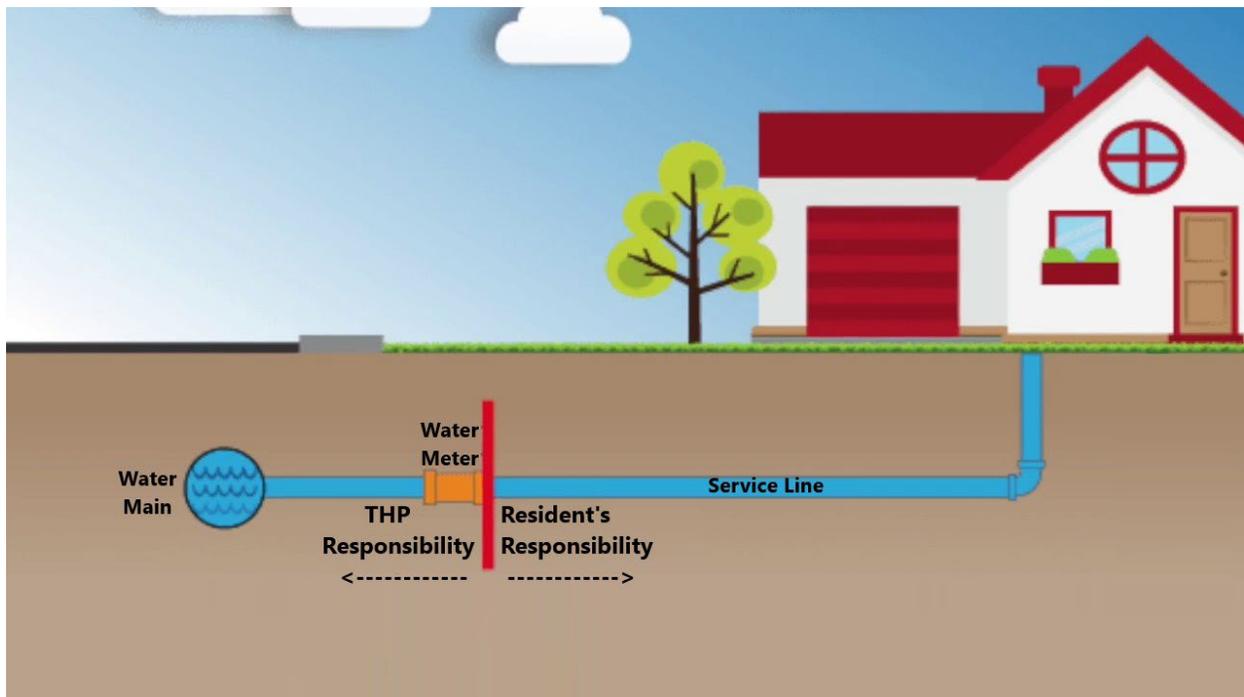
### Information About the Updated Lead and Copper Rule

On December 16, 2021, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced steps to strengthen the regulations on lead in drinking water. On August 4, 2022, the EPA released guidance to help communities identify pipes connecting drinking water to homes and other buildings containing lead. Under this guidance, the Town will develop an inventory of over 5,000 service lines. This inventory will be available to the public. The goal of the rule revision is to replace all lead service lines. An accurate inventory will help the Town continue replacing lead service lines as they are located. Rules and guidelines continue to be updated by the EPA and cooperating agencies, and the Town will stay apprised of changes to maintain our high level of water quality.

### We Take Pride in Providing Safe, Clean Drinking Water

In January 2024, Town began surveying water service lines in our service territory through records to create an inventory and determine the pipe materials used to connect the Town's water distribution system to residences and businesses. This process will help determine if any lead service lines still exist on the customer-facing side of residences. Water service lines made of lead can affect drinking water quality and cause serious health effects.

This new program is in response to the EPA's 2021 Lead and Copper Rule Revisions, which require water suppliers to create and update an inventory of all service lines within their service area. All service lines within the Town will be surveyed. October 16, 2024, is the deadline set by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the EPA for water systems to complete this initial inventory.



**There is No Action Required on Your Part for The Inventory** - All service lines that are of an unknown material will be inspected and identified by the Town over the next three years (October 2024 – October 2027).

What to Expect When Your Water Lines Are Inspected?

- Notices shall be sent to all residences that have material identified as containing lead, galvanized steel and unknown material by November 14, 2024. These notices shall be sent out annually for the duration of the inspection and inventory cycle over the next three years. Notice shall be given to new residents that move into properties identified as having lead, galvanized steel or unknown material upon purchase and activation of water service.
- When inspecting and inventorying a water service line, the Town will examine both the resident's line connected to the water meter and the Town's service line located on the other side of the meter. Water meters are in a water meter box, which is typically at the rear of your property in easements or alleys.
- To accurately survey the water service line material, the Town will check the material going from the meter box to the entry point of the resident's home. In some instances, it may be necessary to excavate a small area to determine the type of material used to connect to the water meter. Once the service line material has been inventoried, the excavated area will be backfilled immediately. Note, this excavation will be done near the meter box and not throughout your yard or property.
- Inspections will be performed during regular business hours. If necessary, inspections may occur after hours on weekdays, and on weekends. The inspection will take approximately 15 to 30 minutes.
- Should lead be identified as part of the service line, notice will be given to the resident within 24 hours and continue annually until the portion of the service line containing lead has been replaced and proof has been documented by the Town.

## Frequently Asked Questions

*What is lead?*

Lead is a naturally occurring metal that is harmful if inhaled or swallowed. Lead can be found in air, soil, dust, pottery, food, and water.

*What is a water service line?*

A water service line consists of two separate pipes. One portion connects the Town's water main to the resident's water meter. The other portion connects the water meter to the resident's home or building. The Town is responsible for the water service from the water main to the meter. The property owner is responsible for the water service line from the water meter to the building, including all the service lines inside the building.

*Do I need to check what type of water service lines I have?*

No. The Town will survey all service lines within the service area. No action is needed on your part.

However, if you have information on the material type used on your side of the meter, the Town can utilize that information to help complete the inventory process more quickly. That information can be sent to Utility Customer Service, 4700 Drexel Drive, Highland Park, Texas 75205 or relayed by email at [LSLI@hptx.org](mailto:LSLI@hptx.org).

*What does it matter if I have a lead service line?*

Before being prohibited by the State of Texas on July 1, 1988, lead was an acceptable material for use in water line systems. Over time, it was discovered that the use of lead in drinking water service pipes can lead to adverse health effects.

*How can lead get into my drinking water?*

Lead is rarely found naturally occurring in our source water or the treated water flowing through the Town's water distribution system. More commonly, traces of lead can leach into water over time through corrosion, dissolving or wearing away of metal caused by a chemical reaction between water and your plumbing.

Lead can leach into water from pipes, solder, fixtures, faucets (brass), and fittings. The amount of lead in your water depends on the types and amounts of minerals in the water, how long the water stays in the pipes, the water's corrosivity, and water temperature.

*Is my home at risk for lead plumbing?*

The EPA defines high-risk homes as follows:

- Homes with a lead service line that connects the water main to your home's internal plumbing;
- Homes with copper pipe and lead solder built before 1988;
- Homes with lead pipes.
- Older brass fixtures, such as faucets, valves, and fittings, may also contain lead.
- In 1986, Congress enacted the "lead ban," which stated that public water systems and anyone else who intends to install or repair drinking water plumbing connected to a public water system must use "lead-free materials." As a result, homes built in or after 1988 are far less likely to have lead solder.

*Do I need to wait on the Town to inspect my service line?*

No. You can have testing done at any time and report the findings to the Town to update the list.

*How can I get my water line tested on my own?*

You can call a plumbing company to ask if they offer a lead identifying service to have them test your lines. The Town has provided a list of NELAP accredited labs residents may contact to request a lead testing kit, which will be mailed to you with instructions. The Town recommends Eurofins Dallas off of Harry Hines, it is the first lab listed.

*What will happen if the Town finds lead in the water service lines at my home?*

If lead materials are identified, they will be inventoried, and you will be notified within 24 hours. The records shall be submitted to the regulatory agencies.

*If lead is found and I don't replace my pipes, will the Town shut off my water?*

No. There will never be any service disconnections as a result of this program.

*Will the Town replace my portion of lead service line?*

No. Lead service lines on a resident's property are not part of the public water system and are the property owner's responsibility. The Town owns the meter and the service line running from the water main to the meter. Private ownership begins with the line exiting the meter.

*I have replaced my service line, and it is still on the list.*

Contact the Town through the [LSLI@hptx.org](mailto:LSLI@hptx.org) or Utility Customer Service at Town Hall with proof, such as an itemized receipt from the plumbing company that did the replacement, and the Town will update the list.

*I have had my service line inspected by a plumbing company and they have confirmed it does not contain lead.*

Contact the Town through the [LSLI@hptx.org](mailto:LSLI@hptx.org) or Utility Customer Service at Town Hall with the detailed report and test results from the plumbing company that did the testing, and the Town will update the list.

*Once my line has been confirmed as being lead free on my portion of the service line, will my property status be changed on the list?*

Yes. On the customer owned portion of the service line inventory, the status will be changed to non-lead. Once the Town owned portion of the line has been identified as non-lead, you will be removed from the notification list and no further action will be taken.

*Why am I being notified when my portion of the service line has been replaced and confirmed non-lead?*

The entirety of the service line must be identified, including the Town owned portion. If the Town hasn't confirmed its portion as non-lead, it will remain as containing unknown materials until an inspection is completed. Once the Town has inspected their portion, they shall update the list, which will change the status of your service line. If it is changed to non-lead for the entire service line, you will no longer be notified. Should the Town identify lead on its portion, it shall be replaced by the Town and the status shall be updated.

*How can I reduce my exposure to lead from drinking water?*

You can take steps right away to reduce the possibility of lead in your water, but if you have lead water lines, the best solution is to have them replaced.

- Run the Tap Before Use – Lead levels are likely highest when water sits in the pipe for several hours. Clear this water from your pipes by running the cold water for several minutes, which allows you to draw fresh water from the water main. Please remember to be water-wise and try not to waste water. You can use this water on house plants or to flush toilets.
- Clean Aerators – Aerators are small attachments at the tips of faucets that regulate water flow. They can collect small particles of lead in their screens. It's a good idea to remove your aerators at least monthly and clean them out.
- Use Cold Water for Drinking and Cooking – Always cook and prepare baby formula with cold water because hot water dissolves lead more quickly, resulting in higher levels in water.
- Change Out Old Fixtures – Plumbing regulations now stipulate that all fixtures must be manufactured lead-free. Consider installing new fixtures and/or pipes to eliminate sources of exposure.
- Filter the Water – Many home water filters are effective at removing lead. If you purchase a filter, make sure it is certified for lead removal and that you maintain it properly.
- Do Not Boil Water – Boiling water will not remove lead from the water.