Notice of Unknown Service Line Composition

Dear Valued Customer,

The service line materials on the public water system side of the meter (street side) are copper, and our most recent service line inventory is available at http://www.wmua.info. **Considering the age of area dwellings, archived water system construction drawings, interviews with current and former water department and pipeline maintenance department staff, and discussions with local plumbers, Willingboro MUA does not believe there are any lead service lines (public or privately owned) within its service area.**

EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revisions require that all water systems notify customers, non-paying consumers, and any off-site owner of a property (e.g., landlord) when they are served by a service line of unknown composition.

Willingboro MUA makes no determination regarding any internal plumbing materials used inside your home or building.

Service lines without visual proof or record plans are defined by applicable regulations as being "of unknown composition." To comply with applicable regulations, Willingboro MUA will develop a predictive model based on a representative quantity of test pits within its service area to confirm service line material type. These test pits will be excavated in a manner to minimize lawn disturbance to affected properties.

What you can do to help

To determine what composition of materials your private service lines are, please complete our short fillable survey on the "Lead Service Line Inventory" page of our website (http://www.wmua.info). You can also email servicelineinventory@wmua.info with your name, phone number, address, and a photo of your service connection.

Help Willingboro MUA Identify Service Line Materials

In July 2021, New Jersey passed Assembly Bill No. 5343, which requires all water systems to inventory and replace all lead service lines. Although the majority of the water service lines in Willingboro are copper, this law also requires the replacement of customer-owned galvanized steel and lead lines. As a required part of this bill, and to get the most accurate inventory possible of the customer portion of the service line, the WMUA will need to collect information about certain customers' home plumbing materials. This collection can be done in just a few short minutes by looking at your homes service line, or a quick in-person visit from a WMUA representative.

Locating your water shut off valve:
The main shut off valve (the lowest valve), is typically located under your kitchen sink or located in close proximity to your heater. **Please take a photo of the piping**. If pipes are very rusty, painted, dirty, or show signs of corrosion, clean or scratch a small section of the pipe before taking a photo. Please use proper lighting.

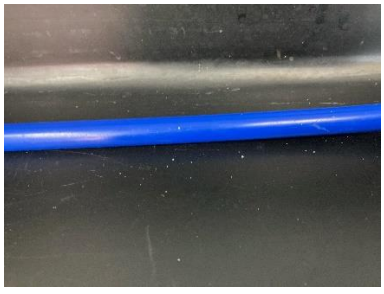
Reporting your service line materials:

- **Self-Survey**: Complete our fillable form and upload a photo of your service line at www.wmua.info. The Survey form can be found on our website within the Public Notices section. Select the option "Lead Service Line Inventory."
- **Self-reporting**: Email the WMUA at servicelineinventory@wmua.info. Please make your home's address the subject line. Be sure to include a photo of your home's service line. Also include contact information such as your name and phone number.
- To request an on-site verification by our staff or if you have any questions: Please reach out to servicelineinventory@wmua.info for assistance.

How to identify service line materials:
You can scratch metal service lines lightly with a key or screwdriver that are aged or discolored to help determine the material. Using a magnet can also help determine service line as some materials are magnetic.

- **Copper** lines are NOT magnetic. Copper will resemble a penny.


- **Plastic** lines can come in several different colors. Do not scratch plastic lines.

- **Galvanized Steel** lines ARE magnetic and commonly have threaded ends. If your service line is gray in color and a magnet sticks to it, your line is galvanized.

- **Lead** lines are gray or silver in color. Lead is a soft metal and can easily be scratched. Lead lines are NOT magnetic.

Your Cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Please contact the WMUA to provide the details of your service line.

About Service Lines

A service line is a portion of pipe that connects the water main to the building inlet. Ownership of the service line varies by water system, but for Willingboro MUA, the service line is owned partially by the water system (from water main in street to meter pit) and partially by the property owner (meter pit to main building shutoff).

*Note that per C.58:12A-41, section 2, the definition of a lead service line now includes lead connectors (lead gooseneck, lead pigtail, or other lead fitting) and galvanized service lines.

In the unlikely event of becoming aware of an existing lead or galvanized service, the Willingboro MUA is committed to arranging for replacing the line within 120 days of verification.

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.

Sources of Lead in Drinking Water

Although most lead exposure occurs from inhaling dust or from contaminated soil, or when children eat paint chips, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) estimates that 10 to 20 percent of human exposure to lead may come from lead in drinking water. Infants who consume mostly mixed formula can receive 40 percent to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water. Lead is rarely found in the source of your drinking water but enters tap water through corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and household plumbing materials. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipes, brass, and chrome-brass faucets, and in some cases, service lines made of or lined with lead.

New brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," may still contain a small percentage of lead, and contribute lead to drinking water. The law currently allows end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 0.25 percent lead to be labeled as "lead free." However, prior to January 4, 2014, "lead free" allowed up to 8 percent lead content of the wetted surfaces of plumbing products including those labeled National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certified. Visit the NSF website at www.nsf.org to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures. Consumers should be aware of this when choosing fixtures and take appropriate precautions.

When water stands in lead service lines, lead pipes, or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into your drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning, or later in the afternoon if the water has not been used all day, can contain fairly high levels of lead.

Steps You Can Take to Reduce Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water

For a full list of steps visit: https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/dwc-lead-consumer.html

1. **Run the cold water to flush out lead:** Let the water run from the tap before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in the faucet has gone unused for more than six hours. The longer the water resides in plumbing the more lead it may contain. Flushing the tap means running the cold-water faucet. Let the water run from the cold-water tap based on the length of the lead service line and the plumbing configuration in your home. In other words, the larger the home or building and the greater the distance to the water main (in the street), the more water it will take to flush properly. Although toilet flushing or showering flushes water through a portion of the plumbing system, you still need to flush the water in each faucet before using it for drinking or cooking. Flushing tap water is a simple and inexpensive measure you can take to protect your health. It usually uses less than one gallon of water.
2. **Use cold, flushed water for cooking and preparing baby formula:** Because lead from lead-containing plumbing materials and pipes can dissolve into hot water more easily than cold water, never drink, cook, or prepare beverages including baby formula using hot water from the tap. If you have not had your water sampled or if you know, it is recommended that bottled or filtered water be used for drinking and preparing baby formula. If you need hot water, draw water from the cold tap and then heat it.
3. **Do not boil water to remove lead:** Boiling water will not reduce lead; however, it is still safe to wash dishes and do laundry. Lead will not soak into dishware or most clothes.
4. **Use alternative sources or treatment of water:** You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or www.nsf.org for information on performance standards for water filters.

5. **Determine if you have interior lead plumbing or solder:** If your home/building was constructed prior to 1987, it is important to determine if interior lead solder or lead pipes are present. You can check yourself, hire a licensed plumber, or check with your landlord.
6. **Replace plumbing fixtures and service lines containing lead:** Replace brass faucets, fittings, and valves that do not meet the current definition of "lead free" from 2014 (as explained above). Visit the NSF website at www.nsf.org to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures. **If you are planning to replace your lead service line, contact us at 609-877-2900.**
7. **Remove and clean aerators/screens on plumbing fixtures:** Over time, particles and sediment can collect in the aerator screen. Regularly remove and clean aerator screens located at the tip of faucets and remove any particles.
8. **Test your water for lead:** Testing is essential because you cannot see, taste, or smell lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http:www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.
9. **Get your child tested:** Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about lead exposure. New Jersey law requires that children be tested for lead in their blood at both 1 and 2 years of age and before they are 6 years old if they have never been tested before or if they have been exposed to a known source of lead.
10. **Have an electrician check your wiring:** If grounding wires from the electrical system are attached to your pipes, corrosion may be greater. Check with a licensed electrician or your local electrical code to determine if your wiring can be grounded elsewhere. DO NOT attempt to change the wiring yourself because improper grounding can cause electrical shock and fire hazards.
11. **Water softeners and reverse osmosis units:** Remove lead from water but can also make the water more corrosive to lead solder and plumbing by removing certain minerals; therefore, the installation of these treatment units at the point of entry into homes with lead plumbing should only be done under the supervision of a qualified water treatment professional.

For more information, please contact the WMUA Office at 609-877-2900 or servicelineinventory@wmua.info

Please Note

The owner or operator (e.g., landlord) of a multi-unit dwelling (e.g., apartment building) must distribute this information to every resident. Delivery of a hard copy of the notice must be done by hand, or mail, and by posting the information in a conspicuous location in the common area of each dwelling.

Please share this information with all other people who consume this water at this address provided by Willingboro MUA, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by Willingboro MUA. State Water System ID#: NJ0338001
Date distributed: November 15, 2024