We’re Replacing Lead Service Lines

This packet was created specifically to help you, our customer, as we work to replace lead service lines. Please understand that, with your permission, we can replace your service line in a timely manner with minimal interruption to your service.

WHAT YOU’LL FIND INSIDE:

01. Lead and Copper Rule & Service Line Process Sheet
02. Temporary Use Agreement (Please Sign & Return)
03. Pre-Paid Envelope to Return Temporary Use Agreement
04. Tips: Clean Drinking Water
05. Service Line and Internal Plumbing Flushing Instructions
06. Oakland County Health Department Lead Drinking Water

If you have any questions or would like to speak with someone, please visit us at www.oakgov.com/water or call us at (248) 858-4324.
We’re Replacing Lead Service Lines

WHY?
The Michigan Lead and Copper Rule states that all lead service lines need to be replaced within the next 20 years. Through our Water Service Line Replacement Program, we’re replacing lead and galvanized steel service lines in your area.

WHAT?
Service lines carry water from the water main under the street up to your home. If you have a lead service line, a full replacement is necessary. A full replacement entails removing the entire service line on both private and public property – at the water system’s expense.

WHERE?

WHEN?
Our Water Service Line Replacement Program targets areas that fall within upcoming planned construction. To schedule an appointment for an inspection of your service line, please call (248) 858-4324.

How does this process work?

1. The WRC Water Maintenance Team will need to enter your home to verify service line piping material and meter location.
   a. If your service line is not lead or galvanized steel, no further action is required.
   b. If your service line is lead or galvanized steel, our team will work with you to schedule an appointment to replace your entire service line, from the water main to your water meter.

2. The Temporary Use Agreement included in your packet must be signed prior to any work. Please read it over and return your signed copy as soon as possible.

3. The WRC Water Maintenance Team and WRC-approved contractor will come onsite to replace your existing service line with a copper service line.

4. All property will be restored.

5. The portion of the service line between the curb box and your home will continue to be your property.

Please call (248) 858-4324 to schedule an appointment as soon as possible.
Temporary Use Agreement

THE OWNER/OCCUPANT(S) UNDERSTANDS AND AGREES AS FOLLOWS:

1. I/We, the undersigned Owner/Occupant(s), grant permission to the Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner, his representatives or contractors, (collectively referred to “the WRC”) to enter upon the premises identified above to replace the existing private portion of the water service line which extends from the curb stop at the property line to the water meter located within the premises (hereinafter referred to as the “project”).

2. In order to complete the project described in paragraph 1, I/we agree to allow the WRC access to the existing water supply system, the existing driveway, lawn areas, and basement or meter area, as needed until the work is complete.

3. Upon completion of the project, the WRC shall restore the premises as follows:
   a. All established lawn area that is damaged as a result of the project will be repaired with topsoil, seed and mulch.
   b. Any portion of the existing driveway damaged as a result of the project will be repaired and restored with like materials and to matching thickness.
   c. Trees or other landscaping, if any, will be preserved and protected during the project. Any trees or landscaping damaged due to the project will be restored with standard nursery stock of like or similar species.

4. I/We understand and acknowledge by signing this agreement that replacement of the private water service line, as identified in paragraph 1, does not constitute any further responsibility of this private water service line by the WRC. However, WRC will guarantee the private water service line for ONE year after construction. The private service line and interior plumbing and sewer pipe remains the private property of the Owner and continues to be the full responsibility of the Owner at all times now and in the future.

OWNER/OCUPANT SIGNATURE(S):

Printed Name
Signature
Date
Phone Number

WRC ONLY:

Method Received (Circle One): Email Fax In-Person Other
Reviewed by
Date
A Shared Responsibility
Maintaining drinking water quality is a shared responsibility between the water supplier and the resident.

We’re Committed to...
• Protecting public health and wellness.
• Delivering the same clean, high-quality water we’ve always delivered.
• Providing greater public education.

In order to maintain or improve water quality at home, there are a few things you should remember to do on a regular basis:

Remove and Clean Your Aerator Every 6 Months.
The aerator is the screen on the end of your faucet, and it’s important to remove it and clean it every six months.

Flush Water that Has Been Sitting in Your Pipes.
Overnight, water sits stagnant in your pipes. And the longer it sits there, the more metal it may contain. So, flush your pipes by running the cold water for several minutes before you use it.

Replace Faucets, Fittings or Valves From Before 2014.
Even if marked ‘lead-free,’ faucets, fittings and valves sold before 2014 may contain higher levels of lead than the current tolerance of 0.25%. It might be time to upgrade.

Drink and Cook With Cold Water
Only use cold water for drinking or cooking. Hot water can sit for long periods of time in a hot water heater and could contain dissolved metals.

Purely Resourceful
www.oakgov.com/waterquality
DEAR WATER CUSTOMER:

The Water Resources Commissioner would like to inform you that we recently performed routine work on the water system and your water service line may need flushing. We recommend that you flush your interior plumbing to remove any particles that may have broken loose inside your pipes.

Please follow the instructions below to maintain the quality of the water in your home:

1. Open the outdoor water faucet closest to the service line that enters your home. Allow it to run for approximately 10 minutes. Next, repeat this same process on all faucets inside your home using the cold tap only. Begin with the faucets at the lowest level of the home. Be sure to remove the faucet aerators on interior faucets (a small screen that is screwed into the faucet) before turning on the water.

2. If there is no outside faucet, begin at the interior faucet closest to your water meter after removing the aerator.

3. Continue with the cold water faucets at the lowest level of your home after removing aerators and systematically fully open the faucets throughout your home.

4. Allow the cold water to run for at least 10 minutes from each faucet. Don’t forget to include your bathtubs and showers.

5. Turn off each faucet beginning with those located at the highest level of your home.

6. Clean and reinstall all faucet aerators.

During this process:

• Avoid consuming the water. This flushing process is meant to stir up sediment in your pipes to rinse it out. After this process is completed, you may use your water as usual.

• Do not use hot water or open hot water faucets.

• Do not use an ice maker or a filtered water dispenser.

Thank you for your cooperation.

WRC
Lead and Drinking Water
What You Need to Know

What is lead and where is it found?

Lead is a naturally occurring element found in the earth’s crust. Lead can be found in all parts of our environment - air, soil, water, and even inside our homes.

Federal and state regulatory standards have helped to reduce the amount of lead in air, drinking water, soil, consumer products, food, and occupational settings.

How does lead get into my drinking water?

Lead can enter drinking water through corrosion of plumbing materials, especially when the water has high acidity or low mineral content that corrodes pipes and fixtures. Homes built before 1986 are at a higher risk to have lead pipes, fixtures, and solder; however, newer homes can also be at risk, due partly to lead in faucets manufactured prior to 2014. The amount of lead in water depends on the type and amount of minerals in the water, how long the water stays in the pipes, amount of wear in the pipes and faucets, water’s acidity, and its temperature.

What are health concerns from lead exposure?

Children and pregnant women are especially vulnerable to the effects from lead exposure. Lead exposure can cause premature birth, reduce birth weight, and delay physical, mental, and nervous system development in babies and young children. Lead exposure can cause learning disabilities and problems with hearing, speech, and behavior in children. In adults, lead exposure can cause serious damage to the brain, nervous system, kidneys, and red blood cells. Lifetime exposure to high levels of lead can potentially cause stroke or kidney disease.

How do I know if there is lead in my water supply?

You cannot see, smell, or taste lead in drinking water. If you suspect that your home’s plumbing or faucets could contain lead or lead-based solder, you should have your water tested. Testing your water for lead is the only way to know if it is there.

If you are on a municipal water system, your water is tested for lead and other potential contaminants. A Consumer Confidence Report that includes testing results is sent annually to water users. You can obtain a copy of your report by contacting your water supplier. If the lead is above 15 parts per billion (ppb) in municipal water supply, the supplier is required to inform the public.

Contact Oakland County Health Division’s Environmental Health Unit at 248-858-1312 for guidance on using testing labs.
What can I do to reduce lead in my drinking water?

If your water test indicates your tap water has lead levels above the EPA’s action level of 15 ppb, there are several things you can consider to reduce the risk of lead exposure in your drinking water:

- **Replace faucets.** Older faucets, fittings, and valves sold before 2014 may contain up to eight percent (8%) lead, even if marked ‘lead-free’. Replace faucets with those made in 2014 or later and are certified to contain 0.25% lead or less.
- **Flush your cold-water pipes** by running the water for approximately five minutes. The longer the water has been sitting in the pipes, the more lead it may contain. You can fill containers for later use, after the flushing process.
- **You may choose to install a water filter that is certified to NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for lead reduction.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) also recommends that the filter be certified for NSF/ANSI Standard 42 for particulate reduction (Class 1). If a water filter is installed, replace cartridges at least as often as recommended by the manufacturer.
- **Do not boil water** to remove lead. Boiling will not remove the lead.
- **Use cold filtered water or bottled water** for drinking, cooking, making baby formula, and brushing teeth for children under age 18 years and pregnant women. Commercially prepared bottled water that meets federal and state drinking water standards are recommended.
- **Clean aerators.** Aerators are small attachments at the bottoms of faucets which regulate flow of water. They can accumulate small particles of lead in their screens. Remove and sanitize monthly.

Who do I contact for more information?

The local water authority is always your first source for testing and identifying lead contamination in your tap water. For more detailed information on Lead contamination please visit:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/](https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/)
- United States Environmental Protection Agency [https://www.epa.gov/lead](https://www.epa.gov/lead)
- Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy [https://www.michigan.gov/egle/0,9429,7-135-3313_3675_76638---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/egle/0,9429,7-135-3313_3675_76638---,00.html)