

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

YOUR DRINKING WATER SERVICE LINE IS MADE FROM UNKNOWN MATERIAL, WHICH MAY BE LEAD

WATERTOWN WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY DRINKING WATER NOTICE



Dear Customer,

Watertown Water & Sewer is working toward identifying service line materials throughout the water system and has determined that the water pipe (called a service line) that connects your location to the water main is made from **unknown material (UNK)**, which may be lead. 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 a lead pipe. People served by a lead or galvanized pipe previously connected to a lead service line have an increased risk of exposure to lead from their drinking water.

For information on sources of lead that include service lines and interior plumbing, please visit: www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water#getinto

WAYS TO REDUCE EXPOSURE TO LEAD

- **Using a filter** certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead can effectively reduce lead exposures. For more information on home water filtration systems, visit EPA's website at www.epa.gov/water-research/consumer-tool-identifying-point-use-and-pitcher-filters-certified-reduce-lead
- **Running your water before using** is an effective way to reduce lead exposure. Lead levels increase over time as water sits in lead-containing plumbing materials and regular water usage can reduce lead levels in drinking water. If you are serviced by a lead or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush the water for longer periods to adequately reduce the lead in the water lines.
- **Use cold water.** Do not use hot water from the tap for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula as lead dissolves more easily into hot water. **Boiling water does not remove lead from water.**
- **Clean your aerator.** Regularly clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator). Sediment, debris, and lead particles can collect in your aerator. If lead particles are caught in the aerator, lead can get into your water.
- **Sensitive groups**, such as pregnant mothers and infants, may want to **consider using alternate sources of water** for consumption, particularly for making baby formula.
- **Have your water tested for lead.** You may contact us or a certified laboratory to have your water tested and to learn more about the lead levels in your drinking water.
- **Learn about construction in your neighborhood.** Contact us to find out about any construction or maintenance work that could disturb your service line. Construction may cause more lead to be released from a lead-containing service line.

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 women 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.

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IDENTIFYING SERVICE LINE MATERIAL



To help update Watertown Water & Sewer's records, you can perform your own inspection by visiting: <https://arcg.is/nPerb> or scan the QR code on the left with your smartphone to find step-by-step instructions for performing an inspection and how to submit your results.

EPA has developed an online step-by-step guide to help people identify lead pipes in their homes called Protect Your Tap: A Quick Check for Lead. It is available at: www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/protect-your-tap-quick-check-lead.

For information about potential financing solutions to assist property owners with replacement of lead service lines, please contact us at 860-945-5299 or visit www.watertownct.org/departments/water___sewer/index.php.

For more information on reducing lead exposure from your drinking water and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at www.epa.gov/lead.

GET YOUR CHILD TESTED TO DETERMINE THEIR BLOOD LEAD LEVELS

Although there is no confirmation of having a lead service line, a family doctor or pediatrician can perform a blood test on your child to determine the levels of lead in their blood and provide additional 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 and Prevention (CDC) 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 www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water.

The Watertown Water & Sewer Authority is focused on protecting the health of every household in our community. This notice contains important information about your drinking water. Please share a copy of this information with anyone who drinks and/or cooks using water at this property. This should include those who may not have received this notice directly, for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, businesses, as well as parents of children.

This notice is being sent to you by Watertown Water & Sewer Authority PWS ID#: 1530021

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