

Water Service Line Notices – Frequently Asked Questions

General Questions

1. What is a water service line?

A water service line is the underground pipe that connects a home or business to the public water main. Depending on when a property was constructed and whether the service line has been replaced, the pipe may be made of lead, copper, galvanized steel, plastic, or another material.

2. Why am I receiving this notice?

The City is working to identify and replace lead service lines throughout the community in accordance with Michigan's drinking water regulations.

You are receiving this notice because City records indicate that your property's water service line either contains lead, may contain lead, or has not yet been confirmed to be made of a non-lead material.

The notice identifies the current classification of your service line based on the information available to the City.

3. Does receiving this notice mean my drinking water is unsafe?

Not necessarily. Receiving a notice does not mean that lead has been detected in your drinking water or that your water has been determined to be unsafe.

However, lead can enter drinking water when plumbing materials containing lead corrode. The amount of lead that may enter the water can vary depending on the condition of the plumbing, water chemistry, and other factors.

The City is working to identify and replace lead service lines to reduce potential exposure and comply with state and federal drinking water requirements.

Follow the notice instructions if you desire testing and steps you can take to reduce your exposure to lead in your water.

4. What is the City doing to replace lead service lines?

The City is working to identify and replace lead service lines and galvanized service lines previously connected to lead throughout the community.

Michigan's Lead and Copper Rule established a replacement deadline of 2041. However, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's federal Lead and Copper Rule

Improvements establish an earlier replacement deadline of November 1, 2037, for most water systems, subject to applicable exceptions or adjusted deadlines.

The City is developing a coordinated replacement program to meet these requirements. This includes maintaining an inventory of service line materials, identifying properties requiring replacement, and pursuing state funding to help cover replacement costs.

The City will continue to provide updates as funding is secured and replacement projects are scheduled.

5. Is the City pursuing funding to help pay for lead service line replacements?

Yes. The City is actively pursuing funding through Michigan's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), a state-administered financing program that helps communities make improvements to their drinking water infrastructure.

The City has submitted a funding application for approximately \$1.69 million to support the replacement of an estimated 135 lead service lines.

The DWSRF program may provide low-interest or zero-interest financing and principal forgiveness, depending on program requirements and funding availability.

The City is working to secure the most favorable funding available to help meet state and federal replacement requirements, including the federal replacement deadline of November 1, 2037, while reducing the financial impact of these necessary improvements on the community.

6. When will my service line be replaced?

Michigan and federal drinking water regulations require water systems to identify and replace lead service lines and galvanized service lines previously connected to lead.

Michigan's Lead and Copper Rule established a replacement deadline of 2041. However, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's federal Lead and Copper Rule Improvements establish an earlier replacement deadline of November 1, 2037, for most water systems, subject to applicable exceptions or adjusted deadlines.

The City is working to meet these regulatory requirements and has not yet established a replacement date for every property. Individual replacement

schedules will depend on available funding, project planning, regulatory requirements, and coordination with other infrastructure improvements.

As replacement projects are scheduled, the City will provide additional information to affected property owners regarding anticipated construction timelines, access requirements, and next steps.

7. Can I replace my lead service line sooner rather than waiting for the City's scheduled replacement program?

Yes. Property owners who wish to replace their lead service line sooner than the City's planned replacement schedule may contact Public Works to discuss an early replacement.

The City is open to sharing the eligible replacement cost for earlier replacements on a 50/50 basis, subject to review and approval of the proposed work and cost.

Property owners interested in this option must obtain a quote from a qualified contractor and submit it to the City for review before proceeding with the work.

The City will review the proposed scope of work and cost and determine whether the project is eligible for cost sharing.

Please contact Public Works and obtain approval before authorizing construction. Work completed without prior City approval may not qualify for reimbursement or cost sharing.

Questions for Properties With Known Lead Service Lines

8. My notice indicates that I have a lead service line. What does that mean?

Based on available records or inspections, the City has identified lead material in your property's water service line.

Lead service lines were commonly installed in older homes and buildings before their use was prohibited. Although a lead service line does not necessarily mean that lead is present in your drinking water, replacing the line is an important step in reducing potential exposure.

The City is working to replace identified lead service lines as part of its ongoing water infrastructure improvement efforts.

9. What does it mean if my notice indicates that my service line is galvanized and was previously connected to lead?

Galvanized steel service lines were commonly used in older homes and buildings. Although galvanized steel does not contain lead as a primary component, it can accumulate lead particles from upstream lead pipes or other plumbing materials.

If a galvanized service line is currently connected to lead or was previously connected to a lead service line, lead particles may remain in the galvanized pipe even after the original lead pipe has been removed.

Michigan and federal drinking water regulations require the replacement of these service lines. Under the federal Lead and Copper Rule Improvements, most water systems must complete these replacements by November 1, 2037, subject to applicable exceptions or adjusted deadlines.

The City is including these service lines in its inventory and replacement planning. Property owners will be notified as replacement work is scheduled.

Property owners interested in replacing their service line sooner than the City's scheduled replacement program may contact Public Works to discuss the potential 50/50 cost-sharing option.

10. Do I need to take any action if my property has a known lead service line?

You do not need to independently arrange for replacement if you intend to participate in the City's scheduled replacement program.

However, property owners are encouraged to review the information provided with their notice, follow recommended precautions to reduce potential lead exposure, and watch for additional communications from the City regarding replacement schedules.

If you would prefer to replace your service line sooner, please contact Public Works to discuss the potential 50/50 cost-sharing option described above.

11. Will the City need access to my property to replace the service line?

Yes. Replacing a lead service line generally involves work on both public and private property, including the portion of the service line connecting to the building.

The City will coordinate with affected property owners regarding access, construction requirements, and any necessary agreements before replacement work begins.

Additional information will be provided as individual replacement projects are scheduled.

Questions for Properties With Unknown Service Line Materials

12. My notice indicates that my service line material is unknown. What does that mean?

An unknown classification means the City does not currently have sufficient information to confirm the material of your property's water service line.

This does not necessarily mean that your property has a lead service line. Your service line may be made of copper, plastic, lead, galvanized steel, or another material.

Michigan and federal drinking water regulations require water systems to identify service line materials and replace those containing lead or galvanized materials requiring replacement. Under the federal Lead and Copper Rule Improvements, water systems must identify the materials of all unknown service lines by the applicable replacement deadline, generally November 1, 2037.

The City is working to identify unknown service line materials throughout the community to determine which properties require replacement.

Property owners can assist by providing photographs of their service line where it enters the home, along with any available plumbing invoices, permits, or other documentation identifying the service line material.

Our engineers will review the information provided to determine whether the service line classification can be updated or whether additional inspection or verification is necessary.

If your service line is confirmed to contain lead or galvanized material requiring replacement, your property will be included in the City's replacement planning.

13. How can I help the City determine what material my service line is made of?

Property owners can assist the City by providing information about their water service line, including previous plumbing work, service line replacements, or other documentation identifying the pipe material.

In some cases, the service line may be visible where it enters the home, typically near the water meter or main water shutoff valve.

If you believe your service line is made of a material other than lead, please contact Public Works and provide any available documentation or photographs showing the service line material. This may include:

- Photographs of the service line where it enters your home, including a clear view of the pipe and its connection to the water meter or shutoff valve.
- Plumbing invoices, permits, or contractor records documenting a previous service line replacement.
- Other documentation identifying the material of your water service line.

Our engineer will review the information provided to determine whether the service line classification can be updated or whether additional inspection or verification is necessary.

Please note that a photograph of the visible portion of the service line may not be sufficient to confirm the material of the entire service line, as different materials may have been used on different portions of the line.

14. What happens if my service line is determined to contain lead?

If your service line is confirmed to contain lead, the City's inventory will be updated to reflect that information.

The property will then be included in the City's lead service line replacement planning, subject to applicable requirements, funding availability, and project scheduling.

The City will provide additional information regarding replacement opportunities and next steps as they become available.

15. What happens if my service line is determined not to contain lead?

If the City confirms that the entire service line is made of an acceptable non-lead material and does not otherwise require replacement under applicable regulations, the City's inventory will be updated accordingly.

No lead service line replacement would be necessary based on that determination.

Additional Information

16. Who should I contact if I have questions about my notice, service line material, or replacement options?

Property owners with questions about their service line classification, the City's replacement program, or the potential 50/50 cost-sharing option are encouraged to contact Public Works.