

Lead Service Line Inventory Frequently Asked Questions

A Lead Service Line Inventory is a requirement of the EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revision (LCRR).

Why are lead service lines a concern?

Service lines are pipes that connect individual buildings, like homes, to a water system. These service lines deliver drinking water to your tap. Millions of homes across the United States have service lines made of lead, a toxic metal that is especially dangerous to young developing brains. The only long-term solution to protect public health is to remove these lead service lines.

How does lead get into drinking water?

Lead can enter drinking water when plumbing materials that contain lead corrode, especially when the water has high acidity or low mineral content. In homes with lead pipes that connect the home to the water main, also known as lead service lines, these pipes are typically the most significant source of lead in the water.

Is there lead in Southwest Water Authority water?

Drinking water that leaves the Dickinson Water Treatment Plant, the Southwest Water Treatment Plant, and the OMND Water Treatment Plant does not contain lead. Potential lead levels in drinking water are linked to homes constructed, typically before the 1986, with a lead service line or fixtures. The Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) provides corrosion control in the water system to keep levels in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. However, EPA recommends lead levels of 0 mg/L as a goal, and this goal may not be obtainable if you have a lead service line in your home.

How can I test my water for lead?

A private homeowner can request a lead sample kit from Minnesota Valley Testing Laboratories, Inc. (MVTLL) in Bismarck. They will mail you a kit with the information needed for collection and returning the package. Call (701) 258-9720 for more information on sample kits and cost.

Why is a Lead Service Line Inventory necessary?

Changes made to the Lead and Copper Rule, passed by the United States Congress in 2022, requires all public water systems to complete a Lead Service Line Inventory (LSLI), on **ALL** service lines in the system, and submit this information to the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality – Division of Municipal Facilities (NDDEQ-MF). Southwest Water Authority (SWA) must identify all service lines, regardless of usage. Standard accounts, municipal connections, and pasture tap services all must be inventoried. **SWPP was built after 1986 and does not expect to find any Lead Service Lines in the SWPP constructed system; however, lead service lines may exist in private homes and fixtures beyond the connection to the SWPP.**

For more information about Lead in Drinking Water, please visit
[Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water](#)

What requirements in EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revision (LCRR) rule do water systems need to comply with?

All community and non-transient non-community water systems must develop an initial inventory of service lines that meets the LCRR requirements, including service line materials classification and information sources, for **both the public and the private portions** of every service line, and submit their lead service line inventories to the state by October 16, 2024.

The rule requires SWA to collect material data on both the water-system-owned portion of the service line (water main to the meter) and the customer-owned portion of the service line (meter to the building inlet). We will learn more when EPA shares the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) language proposed for Summer 2023 on their [Lead and Copper Webpage](#).

What is the LCRR definition of a lead service line and galvanized line?

Lead Service Line means a portion of pipe that is made of lead, which connects the water main to the building inlet. A lead service line may be owned by the water system, owned by the property owner, or both.

Galvanized Service Line means iron or steel piping that has been dipped in zinc to prevent corrosion and rusting. A galvanized service line is considered a lead service line if it ever was or is currently downstream of any lead service line or service line of unknown material.

How does SWA access information regarding the private/customer owned service line?

SWA has developed a [Lead Service Line Inventory Survey](#) to enable SWA customers to participate in the collection of the data required by the EPA LCRR. If surveys are not completed, or if materials within the customers home are identified as 'unknown', further communication and verification will be required to determine the type of material. Identification of materials can be done through historic records, date of construction, and visual inspections.

What information does a water system need to share with its customers?

All water systems must make information available upon request for each service customer. Each water system must maintain the inventory information and be prepared to provide it to the NDDEQ-MF during sanitary surveys or investigations aligned with lead monitoring. All water systems are required to notify all customers served by lead service lines or lead status unknown service lines within 30 days of completion of the inventory. Lead status unknown lines are treated as lead service lines in the LCRR until identified. Annual public notification to each customer with an unknown service line is required.

Are consecutive systems required to do a lead service line inventory?

Yes. Each community and non-transient non-community water system is responsible for the completion of a lead service line inventory.

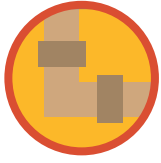
Learn about the water coming into your home.

EPA requires all community water systems to prepare and deliver an annual water quality report called a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) for their customers by July 1 of each year. SWA prepares five separate CCR's for each of the public water systems served. These reports can be viewed on our website. <https://swwater.com/consumer-confidence-reports/>



CONCERNED ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER?

Sources of **LEAD** in Drinking Water



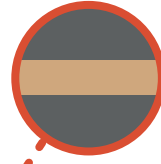
Copper Pipe with Lead Solder: Solder made or installed before 1986 contained high lead levels.



Lead Service Line: The service line is the pipe that runs from the water main to the home's internal plumbing. Lead service lines can be a major source of lead contamination in water.



Faucets: Fixtures inside your home may contain lead.



Galvanized Pipe: Lead particles can attach to the surface of galvanized pipes. Over time, the particles can enter your drinking water, causing elevated lead levels.



Lead Goose Necks: Goose necks and pigtails are shorter pipes that connect the lead service line to the main.

MAIN WATER LINE

Reduce Your Exposure To Lead



Use only cold water for drinking, cooking and making baby formula. *Boiling water does not remove lead from water.*



Regularly clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator).



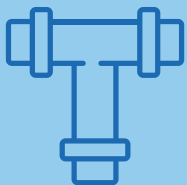
Consider using a water filter certified to remove lead and know when it's time to replace the filter.



Before drinking, flush your pipes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes.

To find out for certain if you have lead in drinking water, **have your water tested.**

Replace Your Lead Service Line



Water systems are required to replace lead service lines if a water system cannot meet EPA's Lead Action Level through optimized corrosion control treatment.

Replacement of the lead service line is often the responsibility of both the utility and homeowner.

Homeowners can contact their water system to learn about how to remove the lead service line.

Identify Other Lead Sources In Your Home

Lead in homes can also come from sources other than water. If you live in a home built before 1978, you may want to have your paint tested for lead. **Consider contacting your doctor to have your children tested if you are concerned about lead exposure.**



For more information, visit: [epa.gov/safewater](https://www.epa.gov/safewater)