

LEAD WATER PIPE REPLACEMENT

Keep Your Household Safe
BEFORE, DURING, and AFTER
Pipe Replacement



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 2 Why Replace Lead Drinking Water Service Lines
- 3 Full or Partial Lead Service Line Replacement—What’s the Difference
- 4 Before Pipe Replacement
- 5 Understand Your Rights and Risks
- 6 What to Know About Your Lead Service Line Replacement
- 7 During Pipe Replacement - Flushing and Filter Use
- 8 After Pipe Replacement - Flushing and Filter Use

WHY REPLACE LEAD DRINKING WATER SERVICE LINES?

If your water utility plans to replace lead pipes, this guide will help keep you and your family safe before, during, and after the pipe replacement.



Lead gets into our drinking water from water service lines that are galvanized or made of lead, have lead soldering, a lead connector, or from faucets. You can't taste, smell or see lead in drinking water.

There is no safe amount of lead - even small amounts of lead in drinking water are harmful to anyone at any age.

Replacing lead pipes with pipes made of a safer material, such as copper, is one of the most effective ways and the only long-term solution to reduce lead in drinking water.

In the Great Lakes region, Michigan and Illinois have adopted regulations requiring the replacement of lead pipes over the next 20 years with safer materials to protect public health. If a water system is found to have high lead levels, it may also be required to replace lead service lines.



FULL OR PARTIAL LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT

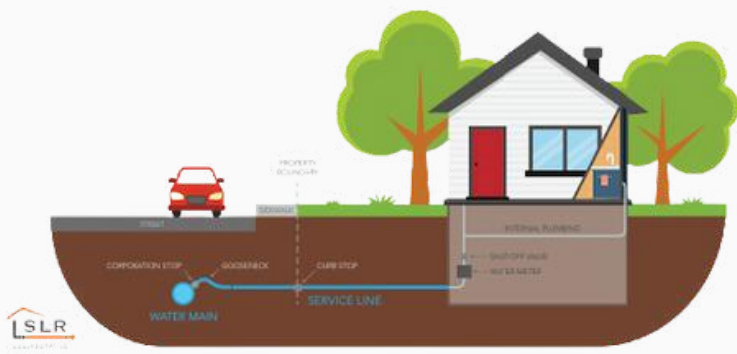
What's the difference?

If you are alerted or hear news that lead service lines will be replaced in your area there are some key things to understand. The most important is whether the lead service line replacement will be a full replacement or a partial replacement.

A full replacement would include new piping for both the municipal and homeowner side.

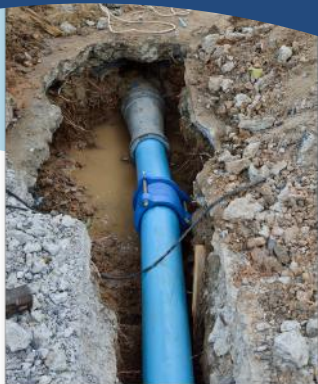
A partial lead service line replacement would only replace the private or, more commonly, the public side of the lead service line.

Commonly, your municipality owns the water service line that distributes water from the water utility through the water main to the curb stop. You or your landlord own the water service line from the curb stop to inside your house (See diagram below.)



Some water systems will arrange to have the privately-owned section of the pipe replaced soon after for a full lead service line replacement. Property owners are often required to pay for the cost of replacing the privately-owned portion of the pipe.

BEFORE PIPE REPLACEMENT



Aim for Full Lead Service Line Replacement

If you receive a notification that only the public-owned lead service lines to your home are being replaced, contact your water utility (example: Board of Water and Light, Department of Public Works, etc.) to ask about covering the cost of replacing privately owned lead service lines. Some communities are using federal or other funding to replace lead service lines on both the public and private sides to reduce costs to property owners. ‘

Partial Lead Service Line Replacements Are Not Safe

It is important and recommended to have the privately owned lead service lines replaced as well. Freshwater Future supports the full replacement of lead service lines and is working on bans on partial replacement. If you are unable to pay, contact your water utility to ask for assistance and payment options.

Partial lead service line replacements have been shown to increase lead in drinking water and are not a long-term solution for reducing lead exposure. Partial replacements are banned due to the public health risk they pose in Illinois and Michigan. However, other states do not have state-wide bans, and it's important to check to see if partial lead service line replacements are prohibited by other regulations or funding restrictions.

**For more information:
Contact Freshwater Future staff at
info@freshwaterfuture.org**

UNDERSTAND YOUR RIGHTS AND RISKS



A water system conducting full lead service line replacements has to notify residents at least 24 hours within the completion of the project.

A water system planning to do a partial replacement must notify residents at least 45 days prior and offer to replace the private side of the water service line.

After replacement but before the water service is turned back on, the water system (utility) must notify you that a temporary increase of lead levels in your drinking water is likely due to the replacement, provide information about the health effects of lead, and actions you can take to reduce your exposure to lead in drinking water.

A full replacement may include entering and working within your home and property. Your city may require a “Right of Entry” form to be signed before work can begin. Please read this document carefully and sign.

If your lead service lines are being replaced and you believe these requirements are not being met (ex: have not been notified correctly, have not been provided with a filter or replacement cartridges, etc.), it is important to contact your water utility, local government, or state representative.

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT

Key Questions to Ask

Is the Lead Service Line Replacement, a full replacement (replaces both the municipal and homeowner side) or a partial replacement?

IF A FULL REPLACEMENT:

- **Is there a cost to you as the homeowner or your landlord?**
- **Are there funds available to cover your side of the pipe replacement?**

IF A PARTIAL REPLACEMENT:

- **What is the cost to do the private side of the replacement?**
- **Are there funds available to cover your side of the pipe replacement?**
- **What is needed to coordinate the public and private sides of the lead service line replacement?**
- **If you cannot pay, contact your water utility to ask for assistance and payment options.**
- **Did you receive information about how to stay safe during and after replacement of pipes?**
- **Did you receive a filter/filter pitcher from your utility prior to construction?**

DURING PIPE REPLACEMENT



Your water utility is required to provide a “pitcher filter or point-of-use device certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, six months of replacement cartridges, and instructions for use BEFORE the replaced service line is returned to service.

Because the construction related to pipe replacement can increase lead levels temporarily, it is important to use a filter when construction begins in your neighborhood. Water pitcher filters or faucet mount filters can be easily purchased at large chain grocery stores; check to make sure that the filters is certified to NSF/ANSI Standard 53.

The construction to replace lead pipes can temporarily increase the presence of lead in your drinking. To reduce exposure to lead during construction, it is important that you:

- **Flush daily:** Flush water for 3-5 minutes in the morning
- **Properly use and maintain a filter on your water:** Once construction begins, a water filter that can remove lead and other harmful metals will be provided
- Follow the instructions to install the filter on your kitchen faucet or simply use the pitcher filter for all water that will be used during cooking or for drinking
- **Only run cold water through the filter**

For more information on how to reduce your and your family’s exposure to lead from drinking water, visit Freshwater Future’s website: freshwaterfuture.org/learn/toolkits



AFTER PIPE REPLACEMENT

When you receive notice from your city that your line has been replaced and construction is completed in your neighborhood, do the following:

Flushing Instructions

- Find all faucet aerators/screens in the home and remove them (do not forget the basement or lowest floor), including laundry tubs and utility sinks
- Remove all in-home filters, do not flush through filters
- Open the cold water faucets all the way starting on the lowest floor of your home and moving up floors until all the faucets are flowing with cold water. For showers attached to bath tubs, use the bathtub faucet. Make sure all drains are open and clear so that water can flow freely down the drain
- Leave all faucets running for 30 minutes
- After 30 minutes, turn off all faucets starting with the first faucet that was turned on, typically the lowest floor and move up the floors turning off all other faucets in the order they were turned on
- Clean and reinstall all aerator screens and filters

For Six Months After Replacement

- The water system (utility) must provide you with a pitcher filter or point-of-use filter (attached to the faucet) with proper certification to reduce lead, six months of replacement cartridges, and instructions for use before the affected service line is returned to service.
- The water system must offer to collect and test a follow-up tap water sample for lead between three months and six months after the completion of any partial replacement of a lead service line. Zero lead is safe, if your result is above 1 ppb, you should continue to use your filter.
- Use the filter for all drinking water for six months after all work in the neighborhood has been completed. Replace your filter's cartridge regularly. See Freshwater Future's Filter Installation and Maintenance Fact sheet for more information.