



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is the Lead and Copper Rule Revision (LCRR)?

The LCRR is a federal drinking water rule implemented by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in December of 2021. This rule revises, updates and improves upon the original Lead and Copper Rule of 1991. This revision requires all community and non-transient non-community water systems to prepare and submit a materials inventory of all service lines in their system, along with changes in water sampling protocols, notifications, and corrosion control requirements.

What is the goal of the Lead Service Line Inventory (LSLI)?

To identify and replace all service lines made of lead and any galvanized steel downstream of lead materials that can leach lead into your drinking water. The LCRR requires water systems throughout the country to be proactive about mitigating the exposure to the adverse effects of lead in drinking water. All unknown service line materials are assumed to be lead until proven otherwise, this is to prevent any possible lead leaching into the drinking water from your service line. Although lead rarely occurs naturally in New Hampshire's drinking water sources, it can be found in drinking water due to the wearing away of piping, plumbing fixtures, or the solder that connects those pipes.

What are the dangers of lead?

Lead is a naturally occurring element that is found in small amounts in Earth's crust. It can also be found in drinking water through the wearing away of piping, plumbing fixtures and the solder that connects those pipes. Lead can be harmful to humans and animals, causing health problems such as high blood pressure or nervous system disorders. Children under the age of 6, including unborn babies, are the most at risk because their growing bodies absorb more lead than adults' bodies. Their brains and nervous systems are also more sensitive to lead's damaging effects. Studies continue to show that even low blood lead levels can negatively impact cognitive abilities, speech and language development, hearing, visual-spatial skills, attention, emotional regulation, and motor skills.

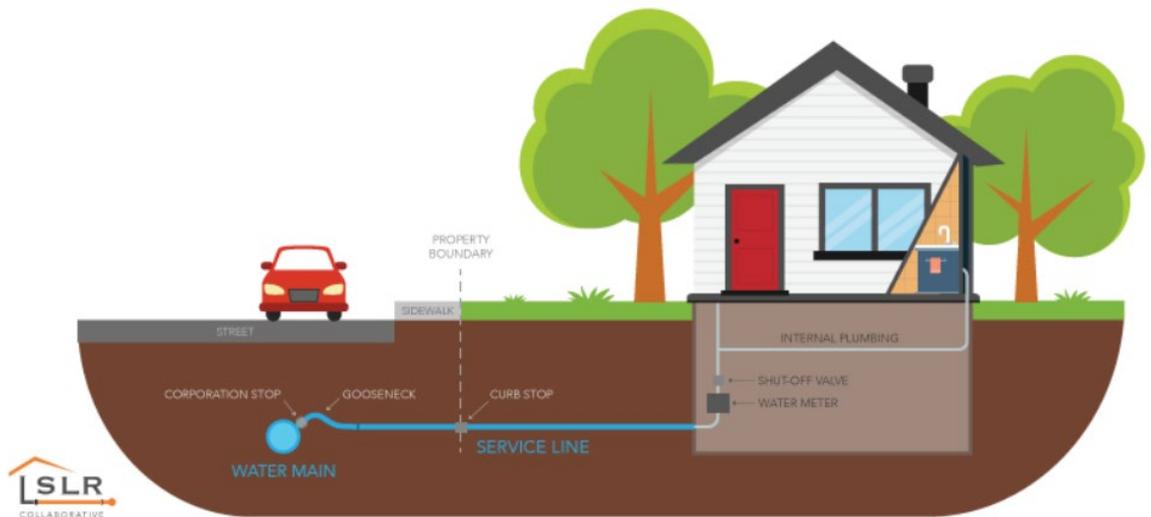
How does this affect me?

The service line coming into your home could be made of a material that can leach lead into your drinking water. It is important to assist your water system in identifying your service line materials. A representative from your water system may require access to your home or ask that you inspect your service line in your basement to properly identify what the material is. If you have had your service line replaced or worked on in recent years, please inform your water system. If your service line is confirmed as being lead or another material that can leach lead into your water, it will need to be replaced. The cost of the replacement may vary. Contact your water system to get more information on what their plan of action will be.



What is a service line?

A service line is the section of pipe that runs under your house to supply water to you. It connects to the water main out in the street and usually enters your house in your basement. Depending on the water system, most service lines have split ownership, meaning the water system owns a portion of the service line, and the homeowner owns a portion. If a lead service line is discovered, it is essential that the entire service line be replaced from the water main to the building, or lead will continue to leach into your drinking water.



What is my water system required to do now?

All community and non-transient non-community water systems in New Hampshire are required to submit an inventory of their service lines to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) by October 16, 2024. Even if all water lines in your water system are non-lead, your water system still needs to confirm their materials and submit the inventory to NHDES. Your water system may require access to your home or information about your service line to properly inventory the portion of the service line that you may own.

More information:

For more information on the Lead and Copper Rule Revision (LCRR) please visit our website: <https://www.des.nh.gov/water/drinking-water/public-water-systems/lead-and-copper>

For more information on Lead in Drinking Water please visit: <https://www.des.nh.gov/water/drinking-water/lead>

Contact your Public Water System personnel for more information.



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.



Faucets: Fixtures inside your home may contain lead.



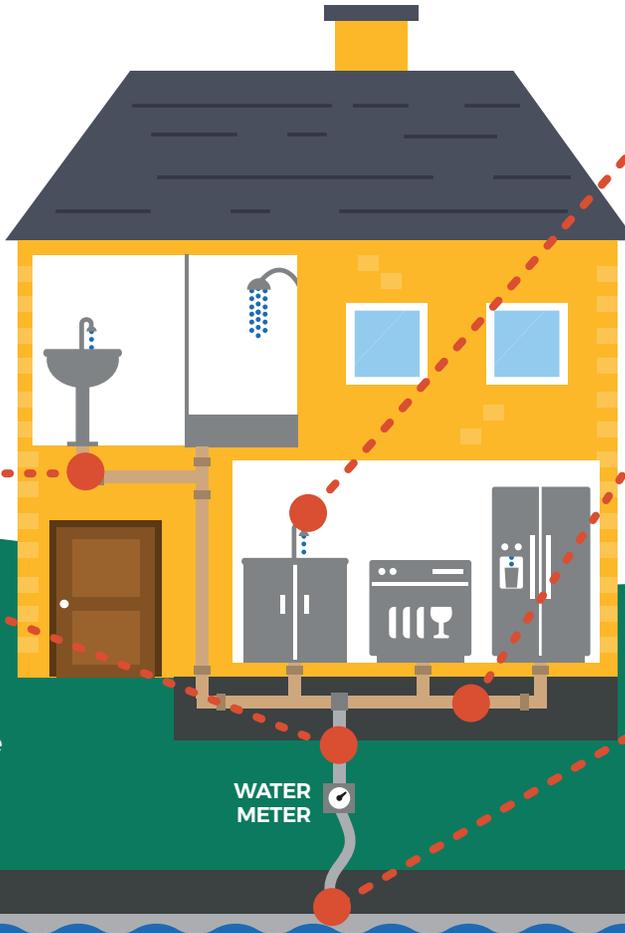
Galvanized Pipe: Lead particles can attach to the surface of galvanized pipes. Over time, the particles can enter your drinking water, causing elevated lead levels.



Lead 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.

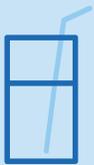


Lead Goose Necks: Goose necks and pigtails are shorter pipes that connect the lead service line to the main.



WATER METER
MAIN WATER LINE

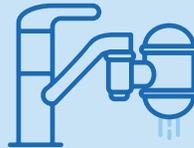
Reduce Your Exposure To Lead



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).



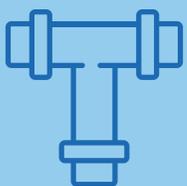
Consider using a water filter certified to remove lead and know when it's time to replace the filter.



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