



Important Information About Your Water Service Line

Dear Customer,

The City of Geneva is committed to providing safe drinking water to our customers, and that means being proactive in complying with the requirements of the US EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revisions. We have developed an initial water service line inventory and are continually collecting additional information about the materials of the water service lines in our distribution system. A water service line is the pipe that connects a home or business to the public drinking water system. Information about your water service line based on our current inventory is summarized below.

Our current inventory shows at least a portion of the water service line material at this address has not yet been identified and is unknown but may be lead.

What does this mean?

Even though a section of the water service line may contain lead, it doesn't mean your property's water contains high levels of lead. Regular tests at homes with lead plumbing show our lead levels are consistently below state and federal limits. People consuming water from a lead service line may have an increased risk of exposure to lead from their drinking water. If lead is or was at one time present on the downstream side of a water service line, it can accumulate on the inside of galvanized steel pipe sections. US EPA requires public water systems to presume galvanized steel pipes could have been upstream of lead if there is no record to prove they were not. There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Because lead can cause serious health effects in all age groups, we are notifying you to provide information about potential health risks, how to minimize any exposure, and how to contact us should you proceed in having your service line replaced.

If this location is a school, business, or multi-family residential dwelling, the information in this letter must be posted where those who can access the drinking water can see it, and/or the information must be distributed to individuals with access to the drinking water.

Understand the Risks Associated with Lead Plumbing, Paint and Other Sources

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.

What should I do?

Learn how to minimize the risk of lead in drinking water. Please review the measures described on the next page to learn about steps you can take to reduce potential exposure from lead service lines and other plumbing materials.

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STEPS TO REDUCE POTENTIAL RISK OF LEAD EXPOSURE IN DRINKING WATER

- ✓ **Replace plumbing materials containing lead and safely remove lead paint.** We are required to replace our portion of a lead service line when you replace yours. Contact us to let us know you plan to replace your line and to discuss financing options. Also consider replacing brass faucets, fittings, and valves in your building plumbing that contain lead. If you believe you have lead paint, hire a professional to safely remove it.
- ✓ **Run the cold water to flush out lead.** The longer the water sits on leaded plumbing, the more lead it may contain. Let the water run from the tap before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in the faucet has gone unused for more than six hours. For more detailed instructions on flushing, please refer to EPA guidance at <http://www.epa.gov/lead>
- ✓ **Use cold, flushed water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Lead can dissolve into hot water more easily than cold water. Boiling the water will not remove lead.
- ✓ **Remove and clean aerators/screens on plumbing fixtures.** Over time, lead sediment can collect in aerator screens. Remove and clean aerators screens at least twice a year by soaking the screen in vinegar and scrubbing it with a toothbrush.
- ✓ **Test your water for lead.** Commercial labs provide water testing kits for lead. Like lead swabs, water testing may help you identify sources of lead in your building plumbing.
- ✓ **Get your child tested.** If you believe your child has been exposed to lead, contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can order a blood test.
- ✓ **Purchase a water filter.** Some water filters are designed to remove lead from your tap water. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead.

For more information on reducing lead exposure from your drinking water and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/lead>. For more information on lead in drinking water, contact the Geneva Health Department at 315-789-3030.

What happens next?

We are required to provide ongoing notifications for homes that have lead service lines. You'll receive these notifications for as long as your property has a lead, galvanized requiring replacement, or unknown material service line.

You can help identify your service line material in your basement. Please contact us to set up an appointment for City staff to complete a material verification of your water service line. The visit requires access to your water meter, generally located in the basement, and will be completed in approximately 15-minutes. You will be notified of the results of the identification (your service line material) at the time of the visit.

You can also scan the QR code, located in the bottom right corner of this letter, with your smartphone camera for step-by-step instructions on how to identify your own water service line material and submit your results to the City.

Please contact us with questions and for more information about your service line.

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