



The City of Lake Forest Lead Service Lines Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the City inspecting homes with lead service lines?

The City's records indicate that approximately 300 homes in Lake Forest have lead service lines. The City wants to be sure its records are current and keep its residents informed about their service lines.

What does the City do to ensure its water is safe?

The City's Water Plant is continually monitored and meets all IEPA water safety rules and guidelines. Additionally, Lake Forest, in accordance to the IEPA Lead and Copper Rule, conducts water quality tests periodically on a sampling of homes that containing lead plumbing. According to IEPA guidelines, the City has never found a cause for concern in any homes that have been tested with lead service lines.

Does the City implement any other water safety measures?

Yes. In accordance with the 1991 IEPA Lead & Copper Rules, the City has implemented a lead and copper sampling control management program. This program is beneficial to all homes, especially those with lead pipes. This corrosion control method supplies phosphate into the drinking water that provides a preventive coating to pipes, thus reducing the likelihood of lead exposure.

What if I'm concerned about my water quality?

If you are concerned about water quality as a result of your lead service line, you may want to have your water tested by a certified laboratory. Water testing is the most effective method to verify if lead is present in water. Suggested laboratories that can test drinking water include:

- McHenry Analytical Laboratory: (815) 344-4044
- Suburban Labs: (800) 783-5227 or <http://suburbanlabs.com/>
- Illinois Environmental Protection Agency: www.epa.illinois.gov/topics/drinking-water/private-well-users/accredited-labs/index.

What should I do if my home has a lead service line?

The service line is the responsibility of the homeowner. If you want more information, you can contact a certified plumber to inspect the line and check for lead solders in your home's internal pipes.

Should I replace my service line?

A certified plumber can advise homeowners if there is a need for replacement. The surest way to remove all concerns about lead from lead service lines is to remove the entire lead service line.

Who pays for replacement of service lines?

Service lines are not part of the public water system and are owned and maintained by the property owner.

How much does it cost to replace a service line?

The actual cost of service line replacement depends on a number of factors including the length of the service line, where the service line is located, and the line replacement itself. A plumbing professional can best determine individual costs.

Do I need a permit from The City of Lake Forest to replace my lead service line?

Yes. You will need a permit, but the City will waive any permit fees associated with replacing lead service lines.

Are there additional measures I can take to ensure my water is safe?

The following steps will reduce potential lead exposure:

- **If you have a lead service line** the most effective measure is to have your privately owned line replaced.
- **Purchase a certified faucet or pitcher water filter** that can remove lead from tap water.
- **Run your water to flush out potential lead.** If water has not been used for several hours, run the water for three to five minutes to clear the water that has been sitting in the lines.
- **Always use cold water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula.** Never cook with or drink water from the hot water tap. Hot water can increase the potential for lead leaching from the pipes, solders, and fixtures. Never use water from the hot water tap to make infant formula. Take measures to ensure that children don't drink bath water.
- **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead.
- **Periodically remove and clean the faucet screen/aerator.** While removed, run the water to eliminate debris.

- **Identify and replace plumbing fixtures containing lead.** Brass faucets, fittings, and valves may leach lead into drinking water.

Where can I find more information about lead in drinking water?

Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/lead/learn-about-lead>.

Where can I get more Information about Lake Forest's drinking water?

The City of Lake Forest's annual Water Quality Report is available on the City's website <http://www.cityoflakeforest.com/city-services/public-works/water-plant/>.

If you need additional information or have any questions, please contact John Gulledge, Chief Water Plant Supervisor by email gulledgj@cityoflakeforest.com or by phone at (847) 810-4650.