

# LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

WORK IS UNDERWAY, BUT WE NEED FEEDBACK FROM OUR COMMUNITY

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

The City of Troy found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes and buildings. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

The safety and wellbeing of our community is at the forefront of this program. Through routine testing the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) detected some elevated levels of lead in drinking water. City officials are working closely with residents, community organizations and leaders, as well as state and federal agencies to replace the city's lead service lines with copper pipe. This issue is not isolated to just the City of Troy, but something the entire state of New York and country are grappling with.

We are fortunate to have secured funding for this year which has allowed us to begin replacing lead service lines in conjunction with resurfacing projects like repaving or sidewalk repair. The City is committed to replacing all lead service lines across Troy at no direct cost to the building owner.

WE ASK THAT HOMEOWNERS CONTACT DPU TO HELP INVENTORY THEIR SERVICE LINES

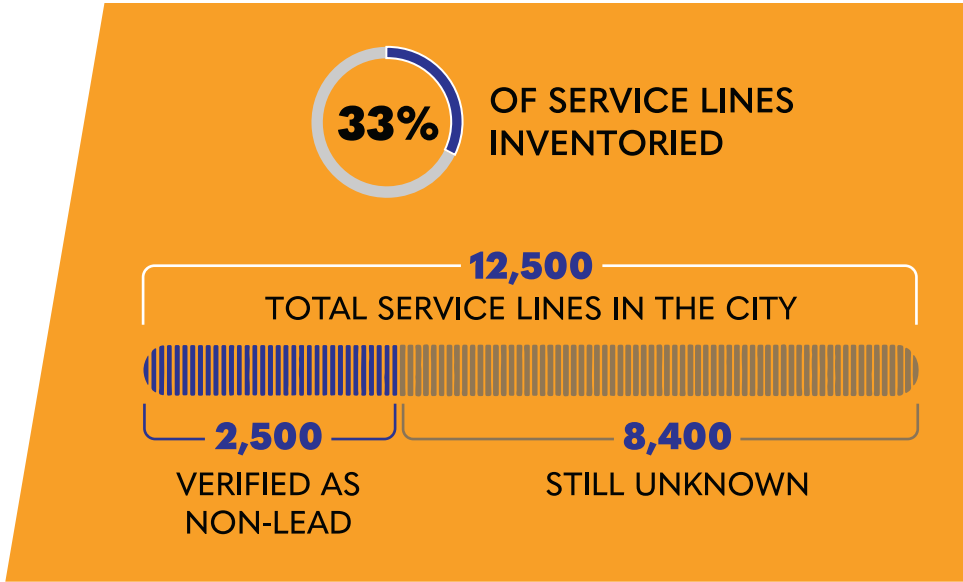
For step-by-step instructions:

**TROJNY.GOV/LEAD**  
**518-237-0343**

## INVENTORY

Not only is identifying the material of your service line important for your own safety and peace of mind, but an accurate inventory of service lines will assist the City in future funding opportunities.

Additionally, it will contribute to a quick and equitable implementation plan, ultimately creating a safer infrastructure for our entire community.



## IDENTIFY YOUR SERVICE LINE

### ONLINE

Submit your form in under 2 minutes following step-by-step instructions at **TROJNY.GOV/LEAD**

### CALL

Contact a DPU representative to visit your home at **(518) 237-0343**

### EMAIL

Snap a photo of your service line and email it to **MAPS@TROJNY.GOV**

## REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

While the city continues to work with residents to develop its inventory, construction crews are replacing lead service lines on 4th Street between Adams and Ferry Streets; State Street between River and 2nd Streets; and 2nd Street between State Street and Broadway. Replacement will continue in conjunction with resurfacing and paving projects throughout the city. Crews will begin working on portions of Ferry Street and State Street.

Since funding has been secured for this year, lead service line replacement will continue throughout the year (weather permitting). The City is encouraging all property owners, this includes landlords, business owners, medical offices, schools, and public service organizations to contact DPU to help inventory service lines so that the City has a comprehensive understanding of how many service lines need to be replaced.

This data is critical for future funding opportunities, as well as, hiring the necessary construction crews needed to tackle a project of this magnitude.

We'd like to thank our local media outlets such as WNYT, WTEN, WRGB and the Times Union for covering the city's lead service line replacement progress. We appreciate their eagerness to shed light on this public health issue that affects the entire state of New York.

## FILTERS & SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

**FILTER YOUR WATER: Look for NSF/ANSI 53 or NSF/ANSI 58 certified filters**

- The best way to remove risks of lead in water is to completely replace all sources of lead. But there are also steps you can take right away to reduce lead levels in your water.
- Run the tap before use. Lead levels are likely at their highest when water has been sitting in the pipe for several hours. Clear this water from your pipes by running the cold water for several minutes. This allows you to draw fresh water from the main. You can use the spent water on houseplants or to flush toilets.
- Use cold water for cooking and drinking. Always cook and prepare baby formula with cold water, because hot water dissolves lead more quickly, resulting in higher levels in water.
- Replace plumbing fixtures if they contain lead. Plumbing materials such as brass faucets, fittings, and valves—including those advertised as "lead-free"—may contribute to lead in drinking water. The definition of "lead-free" changed from 8% to 0.25% on January 4, 2014.
- Clean aerators. Aerators are small attachments at the tips of faucets which regulate the flow of water. They can accumulate small particles of lead in their screens. It's a good idea to remove your aerators at least monthly and clean them out.
- Filter the water. Many home water filters are effective at removing lead. If you purchase a filter, make sure it is certified for lead removal and that you maintain it properly. Find out more on filter certification at [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org).
- Test your child's blood for lead. A blood lead test is the best way to find out if a child has lead poisoning. A child with lead poisoning may not have visible signs or symptoms.
- Do not boil water to remove lead. Boiling water will not reduce lead.
- Drink bottled water to avoid risk altogether.



Interactive map that can be viewed on [troyny.gov/lead](http://troyny.gov/lead)

If you haven't done so already, please inventory your service line through [troyny.gov/lead](http://troyny.gov/lead) or by calling DPU at (518) 237-0343

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## HEALTH EFFECTS OF LEAD

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. Drinking water is one possible source of lead exposure. The main sources of lead exposure are lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust or soil.

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.

## SOURCES OF LEAD

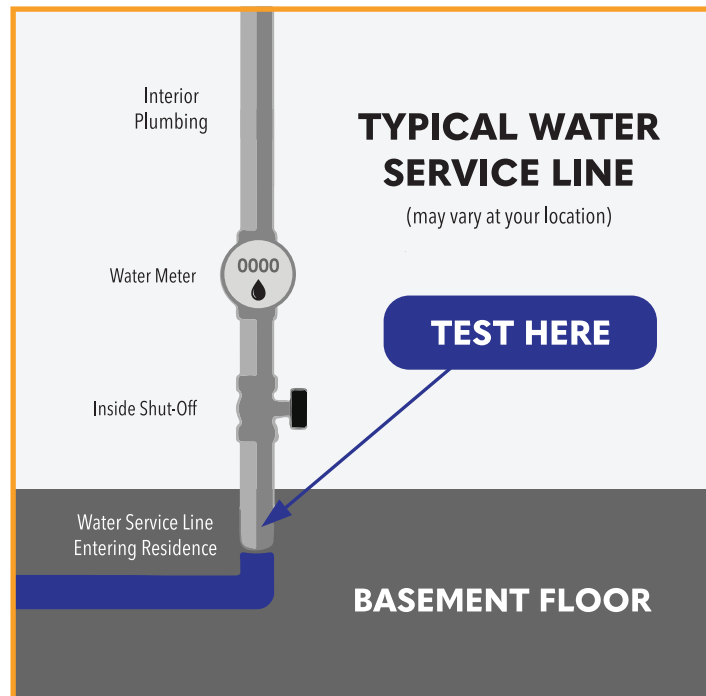
Lead is almost never present when water flows from the treatment facility and there are no lead pipes in our distribution system (the water mains running beneath the streets). More information can be found in our annual water quality reports.

### HOMES IN TROY MAY HAVE LEAD IN THEIR WATER THROUGH TWO SOURCES:

- > Water service lines, comprising the pipe that connects a building to the water system. Ownership of the service line is split between the city and the property owner.
- > Interior plumbing, comprising the pipes, fitting, and fixtures inside the building. Interior plumbing is the responsibility of the property owner.

Lead was not typically used for water service lines in Troy after the 1940s and was banned nationwide in 1986. Many times, different materials were used for a single service. For example, the material used for the public portion of the service line (between the water main and curb stop) may be different from the private portion (between the curb stop and the house).

If present, lead in water service lines, interior plumbing, fittings, or fixtures can dissolve, or particles can break off into water and end up at the tap. Elevated lead levels may be present in these homes.



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City of Troy  
433 River Street 5th Floor  
Troy, NY 12180

## **CITY OF TROY IN ACTION**

### **LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM**

The City of Troy has begun replacing lead service lines with copper fixtures in conjunction with annual paving and resurfacing work. The City is working diligently on inventorying all service lines and asks property owners to participate. You can help by identifying the material of your water service line and submitting your results to the City at [www.troyny.gov/lead](http://www.troyny.gov/lead).

### **WATER QUALITY TESTING**

Troy can test a limited amount of water services for the presence of lead at no cost to you. While this service is provided free of charge, the homeowner or tenant must be responsible for ensuring that the proper procedure is followed. If you wish to take advantage of this free testing, please contact our Water Laboratory at (518) 237-0343.

### **CORROSION CONTROL**

To prevent lead from dissolving into water from lead service lines or home plumbing, Troy adjusts the water's chemistry at the treatment plant. This process is known as corrosion control.

For more information, call us at **518-237-0343**, or visit our web site at [troyny.gov/lead](http://troyny.gov/lead).

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/lead> or contact your health care provider.

