

Lead Water Service Line News

March 2025

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 specific to the City of Troy but one that the entire state of New York and communities across the country are working on.

Inventory Update

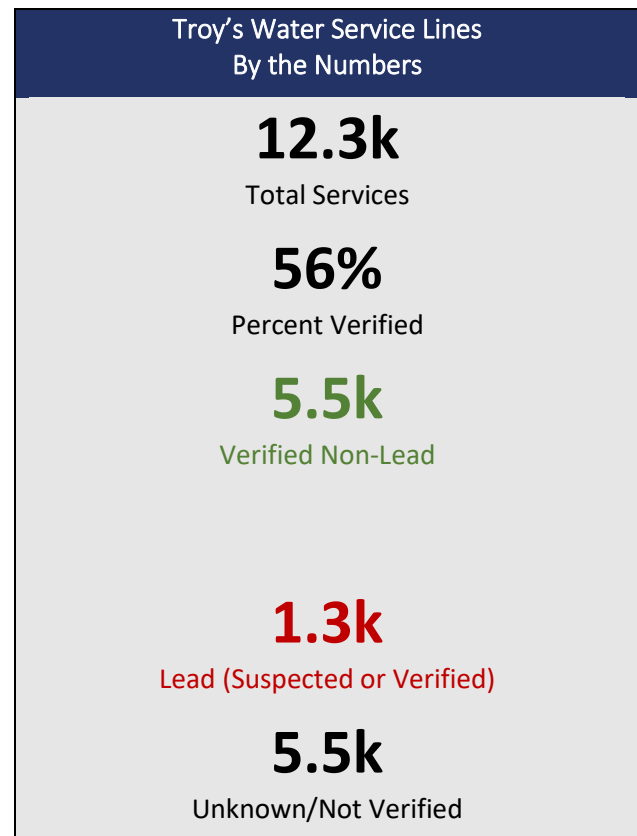
It doesn't matter if your service is copper, lead, or something else—we want to hear from you! If you have already submitted the material of your service line, thank you. Please encourage your friends and family to do so too. The City has only verified half of its services lines and we need your help to complete our inventory.

Instructions on identifying your service line material, and a form for submitting your findings to the city, can be found at www.troyny.gov/lead. If you need assistance, you can call DPU at 518-237-0343 and ask them to check it for you. You can also use our interactive map at www.troyny.gov/lead to see the status of your address.

Replacement Progress

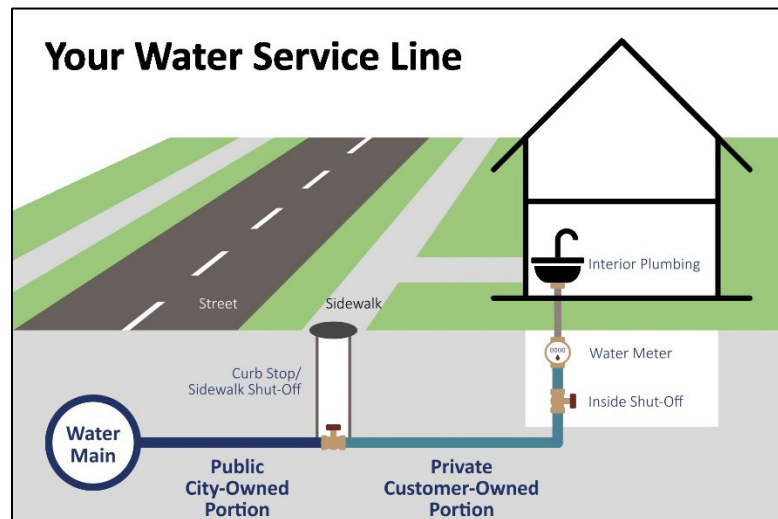
As you may be aware the City is committed to replacing all lead service lines in the City **at no direct cost to the building owner**. For the 2025 construction season we will award contracts and will be replacing lead service lines as soon as weather allows.

Additional funds may become available to us from the federal and state governments in the years ahead. Getting a complete inventory of the service lines in the City could be critically important in



securing the grants necessary to complete this work. Please make sure you have participated in our inventory at www.troyny.gov/lead. Encourage your friends and family to do the same. This is a community problem and we all have a role in solving it. If you are a tenant without access to the water service line (typically in the basement) please alert your landlord and ask that your pipes be verified.

We are presently estimating that there are 3,000 to 4,000 lead service lines in homes across the City. Though we will work as quickly as we can it will take time to complete them all. Until we get to your home there are steps you can take to minimize the risk of lead leaching into your water. Please refer to www.troyny.gov/lead and share with your friends.



Filters and Safety Precautions

The City of Troy is providing NSF/ANSI 53 certified filters with pitchers to residents who have a verified lead service line, **free of charge**. Please contact Troy DPU (518) 237-0343 for more information.

The best way to remove the risks of lead in potable water is to completely replace all sources of lead, but there are also steps you can take right away to reduce the levels of lead 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 cold water for several minutes. This allows you to draw fresh water from the main. You can use the spent water on house plants 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 tip 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 for cleaning.

- 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
- Test your child's blood for lead. A blood 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.

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-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 an 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 from 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, fittings, and fixtures inside the building. Interior plumbing is the responsibility of the homeowner.

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 may be different than the material used for the private portion. 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.