

Cleveland Water Takes Action

Cleveland Water is successful at reducing your potential for exposure to lead in drinking water.

Our actions include:

- Protecting pipes by adding orthophosphate during our drinking water treatment process. Orthophosphate forms a protective coating inside water pipes, service lines and your home's plumbing. This prevents water from coming in contact with the pipe material, reducing the likelihood of lead being dissolved into the water supply.
- Controlling corrosion by keeping water's pH above 7 at all times.
- Testing the water in homes known to have lead pipes to ensure our corrosion control techniques are successful. Cleveland Water's Lead Monitoring Test results are well below the U.S. EPA's action level of 15 ppb and have been since we started corrosion control treatment in 1997. In our most recent tests our compliance results for lead are less than 2 ppb.
- Replacing lead city-owned service lines during water main replacement projects and emergency repairs.
- Teaching customers how to identify sources of lead and how to reduce their risk of lead exposure.
- Implementing a Lead Awareness Campaign that exceeds Ohio EPA requirements.

Public water systems and customers share in the responsibility of reducing the potential of exposure to lead through drinking water.

Cleveland Water is lead free when it leaves our water treatment plants and travels through our water mains. However, some homes and buildings served by Cleveland Water have lead in their plumbing system. This includes service lines, lead pipes within the home, high lead solder used to join copper pipes, and older faucets, fittings and fixtures.



Cleveland Water

1201 Lakeside Avenue • Cleveland, Ohio 44114
216.664.2882 | clevelandwater.com/lead



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Cleveland Water

**IDENTIFY LEAD IN HOME PLUMBING
TAKE ACTION TO REDUCE EXPOSURE**



clevelandwater.com/lead

W H A T S H O U L D I D O N O W ?

Keep Your Home's Water Healthy*

Flush, Clean and Consume Cold are the actions all customers should implement to help ensure the highest quality water is coming out of your tap, especially if there is the possibility of lead in your plumbing system. In some situations, a water system repair/replacement may temporarily increase lead levels in water and/or cause discoloration. These actions are important to take when water has been restored after a disruption of service.



FLUSH

Flush your cold water lines before consuming water when water has not been used for 6 or more hours. The goal is to have cold, fresh water from the main in the street come out of your tap before drinking. To flush the plumbing, run water until you feel a temperature change then run water for an additional 30 seconds to 3 minutes. The time depends on the length of your service line. **When in doubt, flush it out.**



CLEAN

Clean your faucet aerator screens regularly. Small particles of solder and other material can accumulate in faucet aerators and in some circumstances can release lead into the water. Aerators should be cleaned at least twice a year, and more frequently after work on your plumbing system.



CONSUME COLD

Always use cold water for cooking, drinking and preparing baby formula. Hot water corrodes pipes faster and is more likely to contain lead. If you need hot water for food or drinks, get water from the cold water tap then heat the water.

*As a standard practice the USEPA recommends these actions to reduce possible lead exposure in drinking water.

Check for Lead in your Plumbing System

To understand your family's potential of lead in your home's plumbing system follow these steps:



CHECK

Check the type of material the city-owned service line is made from at clevelandwater.com/lead. You will need to enter your house number, street name and zip code. The city-owned portion of the service line extends from the water main in the street to the shut-off valve near the sidewalk or tree lawn.



TEST

Test your customer-owned service line to determine the material type following the instructions for the **magnet & penny test** found in this brochure. Your service line material should be tested where the line enters the home, which is typically in the basement before the water meter. Enter the type of material your service line is made from online at clevelandwater.com/lead. You will need your billing account number.



DATE

Know the age of plumbing components in your home to help you understand your risk of lead exposure through pipes, solder, faucets and fixtures. In 1986, the allowable level of lead in plumbing solder was reduced to less than 0.2%. Prior to that solder was typically 50% lead. Also in 1986, the allowable level of lead in brass components in faucets and fixtures was reduced to less than 8%. In 2014, the allowable level of lead in brass alloy used for faucets, fittings and meters used for potable water was reduced to less than 0.25%.

MAGNET & PENNY TEST

Identification of the type of material used for service lines and in-home plumbing can be done using a magnet and a penny. Some new homes may have plastic plumbing which is often cream-colored or white. Recording your customer-owned service line material type online at clevelandwater.com/lead helps us meet Ohio EPA requirements and plan future infrastructure projects.



Lead Pipe

- A magnet will not stick to a lead pipe.
- Scratch the pipe with a coin. If the scraped area is shiny silver and flakes off, the service line is lead.



Copper Pipe

- A magnet will not stick to a copper pipe.
- Scratch the pipe with a penny. If the scraped area is copper in color, like a penny, your service line is copper.



Galvanized Steel Pipe

- If a magnet sticks to the surface, your service line is galvanized steel.
- A scratch test is not needed. If you scratch the pipe, it will remain a dull gray.

Below are additional actions to reduce the risk of lead exposure. Costs and/or appointments are associated with most of these.

Get your water tested. Customers whose homes have a full or partial lead service line and/or lead plumbing or copper plumbing with high lead solder can ask to be added to the list of homes who participate in our Lead & Copper Compliance Monitoring program. To have your home added, call 216.664.2882. Customers can also choose to have their water tested at their cost at a certified laboratory. The Ohio EPA maintains a list of certified laboratories that can test for lead at epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/labcert.

Cost: Free to \$

Replace pre-2014 faucets and fixtures. Older faucets may contain higher levels of lead. Faucets manufactured and sold in the United States after 2014 are considered “lead-free” and must contain less than 0.25% lead in areas that come into contact with water.

Cost: \$ to \$\$\$ per faucet

Properly use a point-of-use treatment device certified to remove lead. Point-of-use treatment devices include water filtering pitchers and filters that attach directly to faucets used for water consumption. The device should be certified to remove lead for potable water use by a certifying organization such as the National Sanitation Foundation International (NSF), Underwriters Laboratory (UL), or Water Quality Association (WQA). Filters must be maintained and changed according to the manufacturer’s instructions or users run the risk of increasing their lead exposure.



Underwriters Laboratories



Water Quality Association

Cost: \$ to \$\$\$ + regular replacement filter costs.

Where is lead and who’s responsible?

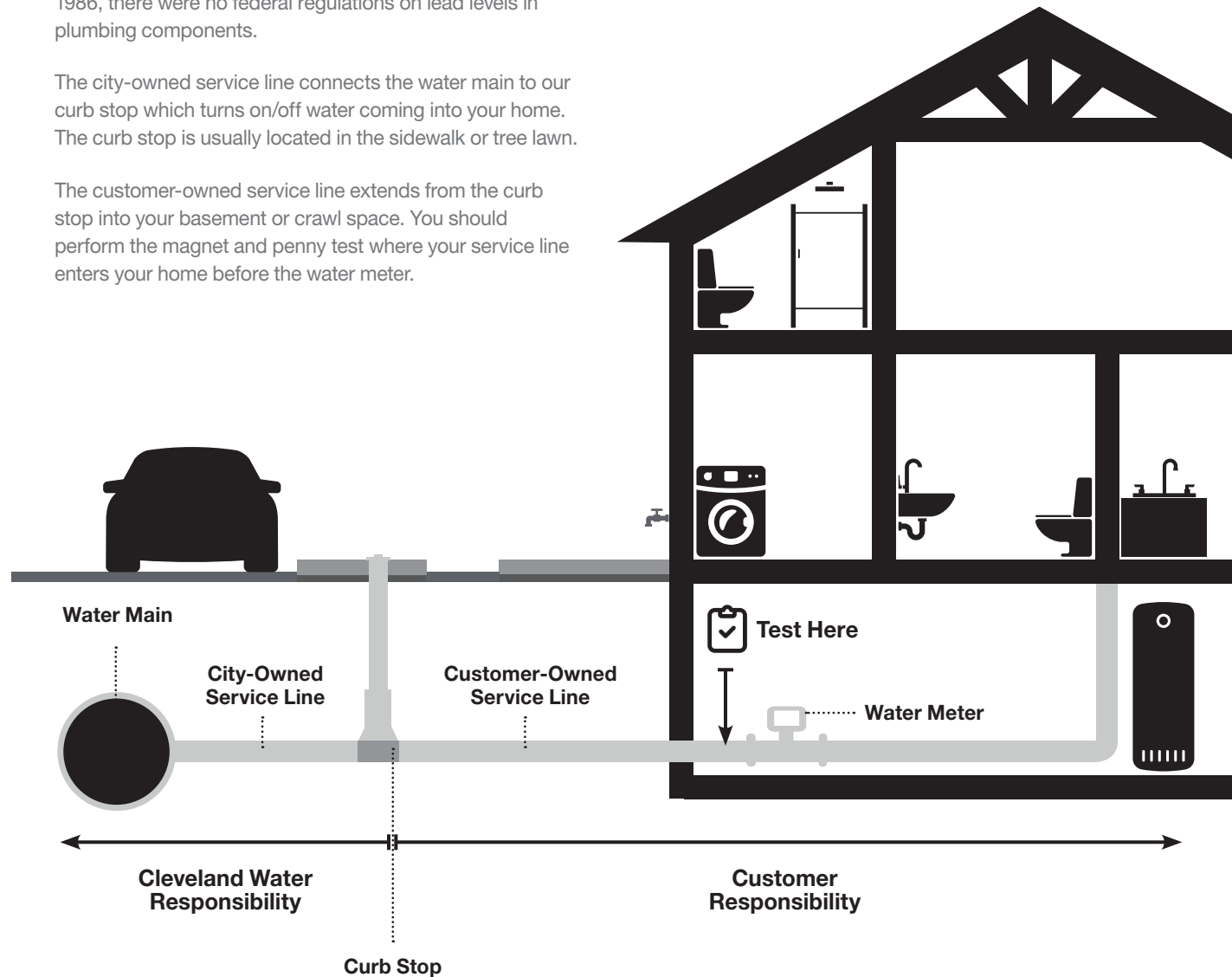
Cleveland Water is lead free when it leaves our treatment plants. There is no lead in our water mains.

Places that may contain lead include the city-owned and customer-owned portions of the service line, and customer’s plumbing including copper plumbing joined with high-lead solder, and faucets. Faucets made after 2014 must have less than 0.25% lead. Those made between 1986 and 2014 may have up to 8% lead. Before 1986, there were no federal regulations on lead levels in plumbing components.

The city-owned service line connects the water main to our curb stop which turns on/off water coming into your home. The curb stop is usually located in the sidewalk or tree lawn.

The customer-owned service line extends from the curb stop into your basement or crawl space. You should perform the magnet and penny test where your service line enters your home before the water meter.

Our orthophosphate addition forms a protective coating inside water mains, service lines, your home’s plumbing, and faucets regardless of the material type and age. This prevents water from coming in contact with the metal, reducing the likelihood of lead dissolving into the water.



Replace lead service lines. Cleveland Water encourages customers to replace customer-owned lead service lines, especially when we are replacing city-owned lead service lines as part of water main replacement projects. The highest risk for lead exposure is when partial lead service lines are left behind. When customers replace their portion of a lead service line, Cleveland Water will replace our portion of the service line if it is lead. For more information, contact our Lead Inquiry Line at 216.644.2882.

Cost: \$\$\$\$ One-time cost of approximately \$60 to \$200 per foot of service line.

Check for and eliminate other sources of lead in and around your home. One of the most common sources of lead exposure is dust from deteriorating lead-based paint used on homes and buildings before the 1978 ban on lead paint. This lead-contaminated dust settles on floors, windowsills, and toys and can also impact the soil outside homes. Lead was historically used in a wide variety of products including paint, ceramics, plumbing materials, solders, gasoline, batteries, ammunition, jewelry and cosmetics. For additional information about lead poisoning prevention and where to have your blood tested for lead:

- Cleveland residents contact the Department of Public Health at clevelandhealth.org or 216.263.5323.
- Outside the city contact your county health department.

Cost: Free to \$\$\$. Grant funding may be available to qualified occupants and home owners.

For more lead information from our national partners visit drinktap.org, or the USEPA's website epa.gov/lead, or call the National Lead Information Center at 800.424.LEAD.

Why does lead matter?

Lead exposure can impact everyone, particularly babies and children because their growing bodies absorb more lead than adults' bodies and their brains and nervous systems are more sensitive to the damaging effects of lead. Even low levels of lead in the blood of children can result in behavior and learning problems, lower IQ, hyperactivity, slowed growth, hearing problems and anemia.

A person who is exposed to lead over time may feel abdominal pain, constipated, depressed, distracted, forgetful, irritable, nauseous/sick, fatigued, and have impaired concentration. Lead exposure can also have reproductive effects including miscarriages, stillbirths, reduced sperm count, and lead can pass from mother to developing fetus.

What is lead?

Lead is a naturally occurring element (heavy metal) found in small amounts in the earth's crust. While it has some beneficial uses, it can be toxic to humans and animals causing negative health effects.

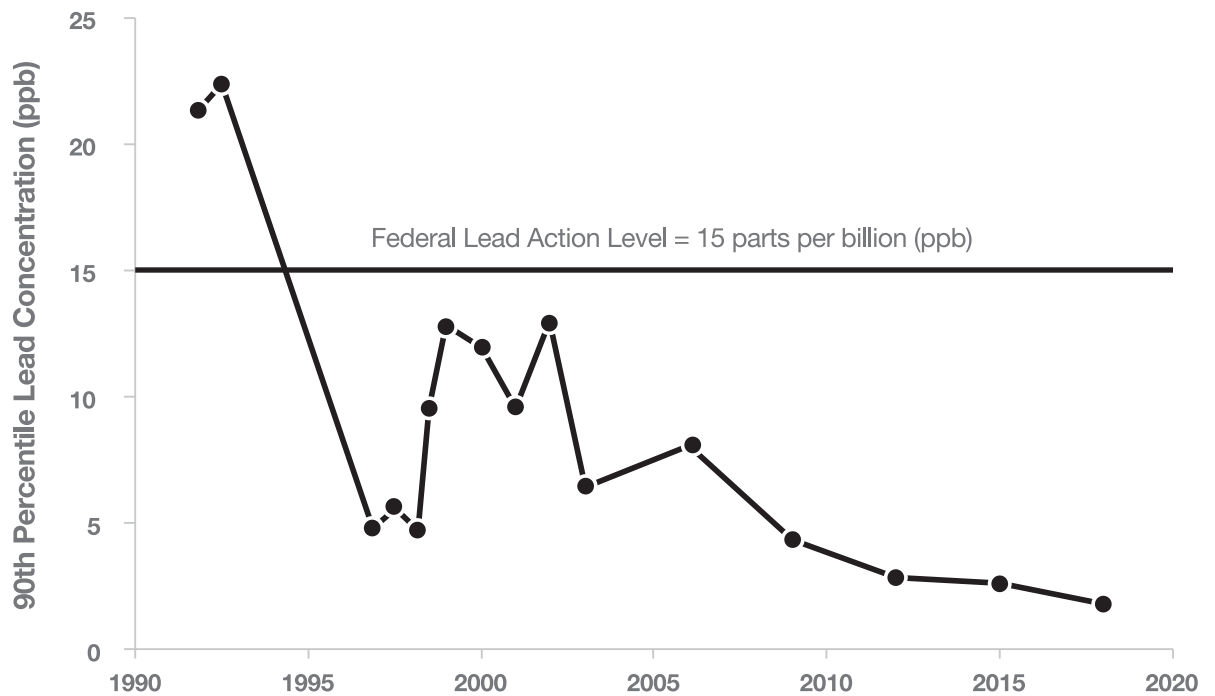
Why was lead used?

The malleability and durability of lead were the main reasons lead was widely used as water piping many decades ago.

For more information about lead in drinking water, please visit clevelandwater.com/lead or contact our Lead Inquiry Line at 216.644.2882.

Cleveland Water Lead Compliance Monitoring Levels

Cleveland Water uses two treatment techniques to help reduce your potential exposure to lead from water. We began these treatments, adding orthophosphate and controlling pH, in 1997. Our success at controlling corrosion is shown through our Lead Compliance Monitoring test results that have been below the federal action level since 1997. This chart shows the results.



Data as of Sept. 1, 2018