

EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revisions FAQ

The Port Washington Water District (PWWD) is committed to delivering high-quality drinking water and safeguarding community health. In response to updates in the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Lead and Copper Rule, the PWWD has conducted a thorough inventory of property-owned water service lines within Port Washington.

A property-owned service line connects the public water main to individual buildings and is owned and maintained by the property owner. All property owners are receiving personalized letters explaining the status of their service line material, whether it is non-lead, lead, or currently unknown.

In the vast majority of cases, no further action is needed. To date, only about 1% of property-owned service lines may require replacement to comply with the updated EPA guidelines. The letters outline the next steps, if any, based on each property's specific situation.

The PWWD water treatment systems are regularly monitored and thoroughly tested, and lead is not a concern in the water supplied to property-owned water service lines. These letters provide property owners with clear information on their service lines to help address any property-owned lines that may still contain lead.

For those who receive letters indicating that their service line material is unknown, PWWD encourages scheduling an appointment for an evaluation by calling 516-767-0171. This will help clarify the line material and provide a sense of reassurance regarding water quality. Our team is here to answer any questions residents may have.

Why am I receiving a notification letter?

The notification is meant to inform each property owner of the known material making up your water service line and whether or not you need to take action to have it replaced. If your service line material is unknown, PWWD encourages scheduling an appointment for an evaluation by calling 516-767-0171.

What are the service line material demographics in the PWWD?

The District currently connects to 9,440 privately-owned service lines, with the materials of the overwhelming majority being confirmed to be made of non-lead materials and, therefore, no action is needed by the property owner. Approximately one percent of the known service line materials may be comprised of lead, and if confirmed, will require replacement.

Service Line Location	Non-Lead	Lead	Galvanized Requiring Replacement	Unknown
In the street	6,950	89	0	2,111
On property	7,876	8	0	1,272
Total	7,138	95	0	2,207

- *Table last updated on October 16, 2024*

Is my service line my responsibility or the PWWD's responsibility?

The property owner is responsible for the entire service line from where it connects to the PWWD's water main under the street to the plumbing within your home.

What do I do if my service line material is unknown?

We encourage you to call the PWWD to schedule a home visit to confirm your service line material. You can also conduct a simple scratch test to determine your service line materials yourself. Instructions for performing a scratch test can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PcO5FCE9Vfw>

How long would it take to get an inspection from the PWWD?

Inspections will be performed on a first-come, first-served basis. We suggest calling for an inspection as soon as possible.

Is funding available for lead service line replacements?

Water providers throughout the state are advocating for new funding streams from our state and federal government officials. We encourage you to reach out to your elected officials for more information about the availability of funding to replace property-owned service lines if needed.

When should I get my lead service line replaced?

Federal regulations say that all lead service lines must be replaced by 2037. However, the EPA recommends replacing them as soon as possible.

If I have a lead service line, what additional steps can I take to protect me and my family?

Having a plan to replace your service line as soon as possible is the best first step, but in the interim, those services **must** be added to the PWWD's lead and copper sampling program and need to be tested during a specific time frame for the District to be in compliance with the new rule. We are required to test 60 services twice a year and lead services will be first. We would also encourage residents to follow the EPA's recommendations in purchasing an NSF/ANSI 53-certified water filter capable of removing lead from your water.
www.nsf.org/info/leadfiltrationguide.

Is lead in water regulated?

Yes. The PWWD meets all lead health standards. The EPA's current lead standard is an action level that requires treatment modifications if lead test results exceed 15 parts per billion (ppb) in more than 10 percent of first draw samples taken from household taps. In 2027, this will be reduced to 10 parts per billion (ppb).

PWWD regularly tests for lead. Testing has shown that lead is not an issue in the water exiting any of our water treatment facilities. We also conduct tests in our distribution system in accordance with the EPA regulatory requirements. In addition, we take steps to reduce the potential of lead leaching from service lines and household pipes into the water by managing the pH levels in the water leaving our treatment facilities.

Does that mean I do not have lead in my water?

Not necessarily. You might have lead in your drinking water if your service line, household plumbing or fixtures contain lead. Lead test strips that test for the presence of lead in plumbing are available at hardware stores.

If your house was built before January 1986, you are more likely to have lead-soldered joints on copper piping. Lead solder is a silver or grey color. If you do, the chance of the lead leaching into your drinking water is greater when water has been standing in the pipes for many hours or overnight.

My household plumbing is lead. Should I replace that as well?

Yes, the EPA recommends removing all lead pipes.

Can I use a filter to remove lead instead of replacing the lead service line?

While using filters rated to remove lead can be effective if properly maintained, removing the entire lead service line pipe will remove a source of lead and help to minimize your risk of potential exposure to lead in drinking water.