

WESTMINSTER DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

DRINKING WATER NOTICE

Your home is served by a service line that may contain lead.

This notice contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you or speak with someone who understands it.

Dear Customer,

Water systems are now required to document all water service line materials and identify any lead or lead containing materials. Our most recent inventory has determined that a portion of or the entire water pipe (called a service line) that connects your home, building, or other structure to the water main are of **unknown material classification**. Unknown means that the service line could contain lead.

As a precaution, here is information on the health effects of lead and steps to reduce your exposure. If your service line is confirmed as lead, Westminster Department of Public Works (DPW) will share information on financial help to remove it and replace it with one made of a safer material.

Health effects of lead.

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.

Until the material of your service line is confirmed and any lead is removed, use the following steps to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water.

- **Run your water to flush out lead.** Lead levels increase over time as water sits in lead-containing plumbing materials. Before drinking or cooking with your water after it has sat overnight or longer, flush your home's pipes by running water through the kitchen faucet, taking a shower, or doing any other non-consumptive water usage. Run the water for at least 1 minute or until after it turns cold. The amount of time to run the water will depend on whether your home has a lead service line or not, as well as the length and diameter of the service line and the amount of plumbing in your home.
- **Use only cold, fresh water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula.** Run the water for at least 1 minute or until after it turns cold.
- **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water does not remove lead.
- **Clean your aerator.** Regularly clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator). Sediment, debris, and lead particles can collect in your aerator. Lead particles can release lead into your water. See how to clean your aerator at [important-resources-for-safe-drinking-water.pdf \(epa.gov\)](https://www.epa.gov/important-resources-for-safe-drinking-water.pdf).
- **Use your filter properly, if you use a filter.** Filters can reduce lead in drinking water. Make sure it is certified by NSF to remove lead- it will say so on the package. Follow directions to properly install, use, and replace your filter. Do not run hot water through the filter. For more information, and which certifications to look for, visit EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/consumer-tool-identifying-point-use-and-pitcher-filters-certified-reduce-lead>.
- **Identify and replace plumbing fixtures** containing lead and any copper piping with lead solder.
- **Have your child's blood tested for lead.** Children are a higher risk group of the health effects of lead. If you would like to have your child tested, you may contact your health care provider, or local state health department here:

**Westminster Board of Health
(978) 874-7409
Town Hall
11 South Street
Westminster, MA 01473**

- **Have your water tested for lead. You cannot see, taste or smell lead in drinking water.** Contact our system for more information about lead in your drinking water and how to get your water tested by a state certified laboratory. See the list of labs here: [Certified Laboratory Search Results \(https://www.mass.gov/how-to/find-a-certified-laboratory-for-water-testing\)](https://www.mass.gov/how-to/find-a-certified-laboratory-for-water-testing).

Opportunities to Verify Lead Service Materials

To verify the material of your service line, contact PWS at (978) 874-5572 to schedule an inspection. Or, utilize the **MassDEP Lead Service Line Identification Tool** presented in the QR codes below to send your service line information to the Westminister DPW and to **learn more about Lead in Drinking Water**.

MassDEP Lead Service Line Identification Tool
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/f9ee39b7972f443ca63e8b936cd7f92b>



US EPA Protect Your Tap Tool [Protect Your Tap: A Quick Check for Lead](#)



For more information on lead see Westminister DPW's webpage at www.westminister-ma.gov/water-department/pages/lead-and-copper-rule-lcr-program

For MassDEP information on Lead in Drinking Water see <https://www.mass.gov/lead-in-drinking-water>

For more information, contact Westminister Department of Public Works at (978) 874-5572 or 2 Oakmont Ave, PO Box 376, Westminister, MA 01473.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water at this address, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by Westminister DPW.

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