



October 28, 2024

Re: Notification of Lead Status Unknown (Unknown) Service Line

Dear City of Cambridge Water Consumer:

The City of Cambridge is the public water system (PWS) responsible for providing drinking water to your location. This notification is required of us because our records indicate this home, or building has a "Lead Status Unknown" service line. This means a portion of the service line material, either city-owned or the customer-owned portion serving your house or building is unknown and it may be lead, galvanized requiring replacement (GRR), or a non-lead material. A service line is a pipe that connects the water main to the building. The City of Cambridge is working to document all service line materials in our water system. If you have not filled out the online form for the service line on your private property, we request your help with this effort by reporting your service line material through our online form. Information on this is located at the end of this letter under the "What Can You Do About Your Lead Status Unknown Service Line?" section.

What Does This Mean?

Under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act, the US Environmental Protection Agency(EPA) requires us to notify water customers who are served by a Lead Status Unknown service line. Since we have no documented evidence supporting material classification for a portion of your service line, we are required to treat it as a "worst case scenario" and assume it could be a lead pipe. City of Cambridge records indicate installation of lead service lines on the public-owned side in the late 1960's. Regardless, without documentation, we are required to assume it might be lead or galvanized steel pipe requiring replacement. The existence of either material (lead or galvanized) does not necessarily mean that lead is present in your drinking water. The City of Cambridge has used a corrosion control treatment practice for many years that significantly reduces the possibility of exposure to lead. However, the presence of lead or GRR pipes will always come with a potential risk of exposure. We are required to continue providing this notice annually until we can verify the service line material of both public owned and customer-owned at your property. Additionally, historical information about lead sampling, including our most recent, can be viewed in our annual Consumer Confidence Reports at <https://cambridgeoh.org/utilities-office/>.

The City of Cambridge Lead Service Line Replacement Program

The City of Cambridge is dedicated to providing equitable access to high-quality water and protecting public health. In addition to our highly effective corrosion control treatment, The City of Cambridge has been removing lead service lines since the early 1970s because of the potential health risk. In conjunction with replacing all lead service lines that are encountered during any water main breaks, the City of Cambridge has been applying/utilizing governmental funding towards removal of lead service lines. Through our Lead Service Line Replacement Program, we have a goal of removing all lead and qualifying galvanized steel pipe from our water system by 2034.

What are the Health Effects of Lead?

There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Some of the health effects to infants and children include decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can also result in new or worsened learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy may be at increased risk of these harmful health effects. Adults have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, and kidney or nervous system problems. Contact your health care provider for more information about your risks.

What Can I Do to Reduce Exposure to Lead if Found in My Drinking Water?

- **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead.
- **Flush your tap if it has been unused for 6 or more hours.** Lead levels increase over time as water sits in lead-containing plumbing materials. Regular water usage in your home or building can reduce lead levels in drinking water. When water has not been used for 6 hours or more, homes and buildings served by lead or a galvanized requiring replacement service lines should be flushed until you note a temperature change, then flush for one more minute.
- **Use cold water for cooking, drinking, and preparing baby formula.** Do not cook with, drink, or make baby formula from your hot water tap. Lead dissolves more easily in hot water. Always use cold water and heat if needed.
- **Use an ANSI certified lead filter.** Filters certified to the ANSI/NSF 53 standard for lead removal can be effective at reducing lead levels in water. The City of Cambridge PWS does have a limited number of NSF 53 approved water pitchers available on a first come first serve basis. To obtain a drinking water pitcher, contact the Cambridge Water Treatment Plant at 740-439-2130 extension 7.
- **Regularly clean your faucet aerators.** Over time, particles containing lead can build up on the inside of aerator screens. Cleaning aerators regularly will help eliminate this source of lead.
- **For pregnant persons, infants, and young children.** Some populations such as pregnant persons, infants, and young children may be more at risk from the harmful effects of lead. These populations may consider taking extra precautions if their home is served by a lead or

galvanized requiring replacement service line. These extra precautions may include having their drinking water analyzed for lead, using an alternative source of water (such as bottled water), or utilizing a filter certified to ANSI/NSF 53 standard for lead removal.

- ***Replace lead containing plumbing fixtures.*** Many old faucets, valves and other plumbing fixtures may contain lead. Identify if your building's plumbing fixtures contain lead, and replace them when appropriate.
- ***You may wish to have your child's blood tested for lead.*** Your local county health department can be reached for additional assistance.

What Can You do About Your Lead Status Unknown Service Line?

As your water supplier, we are required to replace the portion of your service line that is lead if it is on the public-owned side. Typically, this is the portion between the water main and the shut-off valve located at the property line. If the portion on the customer-owned side, called the house line, is also lead or GRR, we are required to offer to replace it at the same time as the city-owned portion. Because we don't know either the city-owned, the customer-owned or potentially both sides of pipe material you have coming into your home/business, we do not know if we need to replace your service line. Helping us identify your portion of the service line material is crucial for us to identify the proper course of action. If you have not provided the City of Cambridge PWS with the customer-owned pipe material of the service line, to limit cost, we need your help identifying your home or business' service line. You can do so by filling out the online [service line form](#).

Information helping identify customers side, non-plastic, pipe material of the online form:

[How to identify a service line pipe material](#)

If the unknown material is on the PWS side, we are working to identify the material of the public portion of the service line.

For More Information, Please Contact:

Lou Thornton, Utilities Director, City of Cambridge: 740-432-5453

Brian Starr, Chief Operator, Cambridge Water Treatment: 740-439-2130x5

Shawn Kirkbride, Assistant Chief Operator, Cambridge Water Treatment: 740-439-2130x6

visit U.S. EPA's website at www.epa.gov/lead, or visit Ohio EPA's [Learn About Lead | Ohio Environmental Protection Agency](#) website. For information about other lead exposure, please visit the Ohio Department of Health's [Childhood Lead Poisoning](#) website.

Please share this information with all the other people in this home or building, 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.