



**CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

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Director

CITY of NORTHAMPTON DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (DPW) DRINKING WATER NOTICE

Your home is served by a service line that may be 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,

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

As a precaution, below is information on the health effects of lead and steps you can take to reduce your exposure. If your service line is confirmed as lead, the Northampton DPW Water Division will share information on how to remove it and replace it with one made of a safer material.

See the YouTube video ***Service Line Inventory Consumer Notification Guide, presented by MassDEP Drinking Water Program*** to walk you through this notice by using this link or scanning the QR Code:
https://youtu.be/21gs7FQq0X8?si=YGO_UjRfQZvXNEjL







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, kidney or nervous system problems. Contact your health care provider for more information about your risks.

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 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.
- **Identify and replace plumbing fixtures** containing lead and any copper piping with lead solder. Copper piping with lead solder installed prior to **1986** is likely to have a higher percentage of lead in the solder, as the *Safe Drinking Water Act*, which banned lead pipes and required lead solder to contain no more than 0.2% lead, passed in 1986. Brass piping and plumbing fixtures installed prior to **2014** may contain up to 8% lead; the *2014 Lead Reduction Act* reduced the “lead-free” definition to no more than a weighted average of 0.25% lead of wetted surfaces.
- **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 <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-12/important-resources-for-safe-drinking-water.pdf> or scan the QR Code. 
- **Use your filter properly, if you use a filter.** Filters can reduce lead in drinking water. Make sure the filter 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> or scan the QR Code. 
- **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 the DPH Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program here: (800) 532-9571 or <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/childhood-lead-poisoning-prevention-program> or scan the QR Code. 
- **You cannot see, taste or smell lead in drinking water.** Contact us for more information about lead in your drinking water including how to get your water tested by a state certified laboratory, if interested. See the list of labs here: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/find-a-certified-laboratory-for-water-testing> or scan the QR Code. 

Opportunities to Verify Lead Services

To verify the material of your service line, contact us at dpwinfo@northamptonma.gov or by phone at **413-587-1570** to schedule an inspection.

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

For answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about this Consumer Notice, see the MassDEP Consumer Notice and Service Line Inventory FAQ Webpage: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/consumers-frequently-asked-questions-about-the-lcrr-service-line-inventory> 

For more information, or if you have questions on how to verify the material of your service line, contact the Northampton Water Division by email at dpwinfo@northamptonma.gov or by phone at **413-587-1570**.

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 the Northampton Water Division, PWS ID#: 1214000

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