

# LEAD & DRINKING WATER

What you need to know

## WHAT IS LEAD AND WHERE DO WE FIND IT?

Lead is a metal found in nature. Lead was used for thousands of years - in bullets, pipes, construction, and paint. Eventually, people learned that lead is dangerous if it gets into our bodies. Federal and state regulatory standards have helped to reduce the amount of lead in the air, drinking water, soil, consumer products, food, and occupational settings.

## HOW DOES LEAD GET IN MY DRINKING WATER?

Lead can enter drinking water when a chemical reaction occurs in plumbing materials that contain lead. This is known as corrosion - dissolving or wearing away of metal from the pipes and fixtures. Homes built before 1986 are considered higher risk to have lead pipes, fixtures, and solder. However, newer homes can be at risk due to lead in faucets manufactured prior to 2014. The amount of lead in water depends on the type and amount of minerals in the water, how long the water stays in the pipes, amount of wear in the pipes and faucets, water's acidity, and its temperature.

## HOW COULD LEAD IMPACT MY HEALTH?

- Children under six are most at risk from lead poisoning.
- Exposure to high levels of lead can cause severe damage to the brain, blood, and kidneys
- Even low levels of lead exposure have been found to permanently reduce cognitive ability and cause hyperactivity in their children
- Long term exposure can cause reproductive harm and infertility
- Pregnant women are susceptible to lead, as exposure can harm the fetus, reducing growth rates and causing premature birth and/or miscarriage

## HOW DO I KNOW IF THERE IS LEAD IN MY WATER SUPPLY?

EPA requires all community water systems to prepare and deliver an annual water quality report called a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) for their customers by July 1 of each year. Contact Village Hall if you would like to receive a copy of the 2020 report.

Homes may have internal plumbing materials containing lead. Since you cannot see, taste, or smell lead dissolved in water, testing is the only sure way of telling whether there are harmful quantities of lead in your drinking water. A list of certified laboratories are available from your state or local drinking water authority. Testing costs between \$20 and \$100. Please contact the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy laboratory at 517-335-8184 with questions regarding sample testing, sample container and test kit requests, and sample delivery scheduling.

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If you own a home, you've probably replaced appliances, a water heater, or maybe a faucet. However, most people have likely never replaced their water service line - the pipe that brings water into your home. This will be the first phase of the project and it will commence in 2022. The Village of Spring Lake is going to begin replacing water lines classified as lead; see why this project is necessary.

# LET'S TALK ABOUT YOUR LEAD SERVICE LINES

**Please call Village Hall if you have any questions or concerns.**

# 616-842-1393

# WE ARE REPLACING LEAD SERVICE LINES

## WHY?

Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and the Michigan Lead and Copper Rule states that all lead service lines need to be replaced by 2040. Through a water service line replacement mandate, the Village is replacing service lines classified as lead in order to be in compliance with state mandates.

## WHAT?

Service lines carry water from the water main, located underground, into your property. If you own a service line classified as lead, a full replacement is necessary. A full replacement entails replacing both the public and private portion of the service line.

## WHEN?

Over the course of the next three years, the Village and the approved contractor will be working on the top six projects. Construction is expected to begin in 2022 and run through 2025.

## WHERE?

1. South Street from Meridian Street to Prospect Street
2. South Lake Street - Lift Station rebuild
3. Monarch Street/Dixie Street/Rex Street from Liberty Street to North terminus
4. North Park Street from Savidge Street to Barber Street
5. Prospect Street - South Street to Savidge Street
6. Summit Street

## HOW DOES THIS PROCESS WORK?

1. The DPW and the approved contractor need to enter your home to identify replacement requirements and meter location.

- a.) If your service line **is not** classified as a lead line, no further action is required.
- b.) If your service line **is** identified as a lead line, the Department of Public Works will work with you to schedule an appointment to replace the entire service line, from the water main to the house, which includes installation of a water meter.

2. The **Temporary Use Agreement** included in your packet, must be signed prior to any work. Please read it over and return your signed copy as soon as possible to Village Hall.

3. The Department of Public Works and the contractor will need to come on to your property to replace the existing service line with a copper service line.

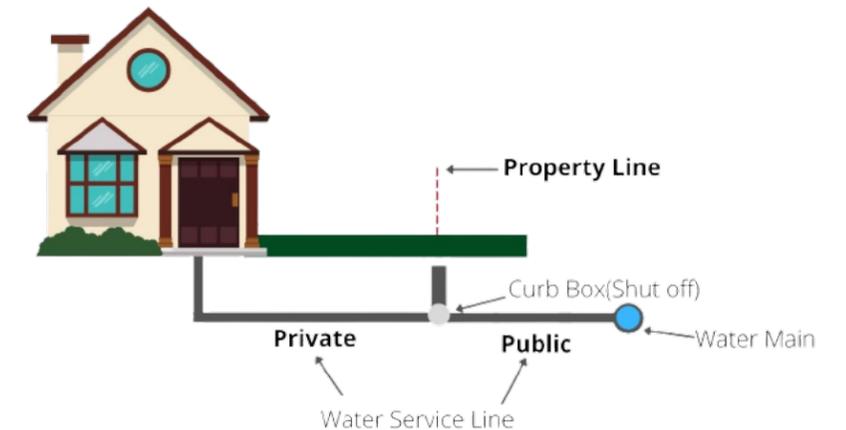
4. Property will be restored in similar condition

5. The portion of the service line between the curb box and your home will continue to be your property and responsibility.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Q. WHAT IS A SERVICE LINE?

A. A service line connects the water main in the street to your house. The Village of Spring Lake owns and maintains service lines from the water main in the street to the curb box, usually located near your property line. Home owners are responsible for service lines under the curb box into the home.



## Q. WHAT HOMES TYPICALLY HAVE SERVICE LINES CLASSIFIED AS LEAD?

A. Service lines can be made of plastic, copper, lead or galvanized steel. Homes built prior to 1986 typically have lead pipes, fixtures, or solder that may contain lead.

## Q. HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE A LEAD SERVICE LINE?

A. Email the Village of Spring Lake's DPW Director at [wdelamater@springlaketwp.org](mailto:wdelamater@springlaketwp.org) with your name and address and he will be able to inform you of your service line material.

## Q. WILL YOU RESTORE MY PROPERTY?

A. Yes, property disturbed during construction will be repaired including seeding of grass, sidewalk repair, driveway repair, and restoring interior portions of the house. The Department of Public Works requires its contractors to maintain adequate insurance in the event damage occurs. The Village of Spring Lake and DPW will not be responsible for any damage to trees, flowers, and shrubs resulting from the replacement of the service line.

## Q. DO YOU HAVE TO COME INTO MY HOME?

A. Yes, if the contractor and DPW confirms a service line that contains lead serves your home or if a lead service line is expected, a contractor will schedule a time to inspect your water service material. Someone 18 years or older must be in the home the entire time the water service line replacement is taking place.

## Q. WILL THIS COST ME ANYTHING?

A. The work is being performed at the expense of all users of the system through a rate increase that took effect in 2020.

## Q. HOW LONG WILL THIS PROJECT LAST ON MY STREET?

A. Each street is different and timing will vary. Project order is up to the discretion of the approved contractor.