

PIPE PREVENT. INFORM. PROTECT. ELIMINATE.



METRO WATER SERVICES PIPE PROGRAM
1360 County Hospital Rd
Nashville, TN 37218

Notice of Potential Lead Exposure Risk

Esta carta contiene información importante. Tradúzcalo o visite el sitio <https://www.nashville.gov/departments/water/water-quality/lead/inform> para obtener una versión en español.

Metro Water Services (MWS) is required to provide annual notice to people whose drinking water may contact lead in their water service line.

MWS identified a portion of your drinking water service line has:

- **Lead pipe material**

The pipe material was identified from installation records review or physical inspection of piping in the meter box at your property line.

MWS has a corrosion control program to prevent the release of lead from plumbing materials into your drinking water. Learn more about the program online by visiting bit.ly/MWSPIPE

A water service line is the pipe that connects your home or building to the public water main. MWS owns and maintains the portion of the service line from the water main to the meter. The property owner is responsible for the section of the service line that runs from the meter to the residence or building.



Your drinking water leaves the treatment plant without lead. When the water service line pipes that bring water to your home are made of lead—or when they are older galvanized pipes connected to lead—and those pipes are disturbed, lead particles can get into the water.

In response to strengthened lead and copper rules, Metro Water Services developed the P.I.P.E Program.

- P** • Prevent – Balance water chemistry to stop metals from leaching.
- I** • Inform – Share information through our website and service line inventory.
- P** • Protect – Safeguard health with sampling in homes, schools, and childcare facilities.
- E** • Eliminate – Remove lead service lines to eliminate risk.

Please visit bit.ly/MWSPIPE for information about the MWS PIPE Program and our Consumer Confidence Report for more information about lead.

Your service line inventory information can also be viewed online in an interactive map at: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/d391788f09a44f9ba8f53f444596a5b4>).

To view your service line information in person, please call 615-862-4923 or email mwspipeinformation@nashville.gov to request an appointment.

MWS offers an online survey for property owners and plumbers who have replaced a private service line between their meter box and the foundation during past repairs.



You (or your plumber) can scan this QR code on a phone and reply to a 10-minute service line survey to let us know about your private plumbing materials (optional).

Metro Water Services replaces the utility portion of lead service lines when found during construction or repair activities. If you are planning to replace your portion of the service line, contact us at (615) 862-4923 or mwspipeinformation@nashville.gov prior to replacement so that MWS can coordinate replacing the utility portion of the water service line, if needed.

Sources of Lead Exposure

Lead is a naturally occurring metal found in the environment. Most exposure comes from paint chips, dust, or contaminated soil, but the EPA estimates 10–20% of human lead exposure may come from drinking water. Lead typically enters tap water through corrosion of older plumbing materials:

- Homes built before 1988 are more likely to contain lead pipes, solder, or fixtures.
- Copper piping installed prior to 2014 may contain up to 8% lead.
- Brass and chrome-plated brass faucets are common sources, especially when hot water is used.

Health Effects of Lead

Lead exposure can cause serious health problems at any age:

- Children & infants: Reduced IQ, shorter attention spans, learning and behavioral issues.
- Pregnant women: Increased prenatal risks; stored lead in bones may be released during pregnancy.
- Adults: Higher risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney damage, and nervous system issues.

Ways to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water

- 1) Run your water to flush out lead.** Flushing the tap means running the cold-water faucet. It usually uses less than one gallon of water. If the water has not been used for several hours, run water for 15-30 seconds, until it becomes cold, or until it reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking. Flushing removes water that may contain lead from the plumbing lines.
- 2) Use cold, flushed water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Because lead from plumbing materials and pipes can dissolve into hot water more easily than cold water, never drink, cook, or prepare beverages including baby formula using hot water from the tap. If you have not had your water tested or if you know that lead-containing materials and pipes exist within your home, it is recommended that bottled or filtered water be used for drinking and preparing baby formula. If you need hot water, draw water from the cold tap and then heat it.
- 3) Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead; however, it is still safe to wash hands, dishes, shower, water plants, do laundry, etc.
- 4) Look for alternative sources or treatment of water** if you are concerned about contaminants. You may want to consider purchasing a water filter or bottled water. Read the packaging to ensure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 800- NSF-2010 or www.nsf.org for more information on performance standards for water filters.
- 5) Get your child tested.** Visit the Tennessee Department of Health to learn more about children and lead or contact your healthcare provider to find out how you could get your child evaluated for lead if you are concerned about lead exposure.
tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/fhw/tn-clpp.html
- 6) Get your water tested.** The following are some approved laboratories in Middle Tennessee that can test water for lead (most labs charge a fee). A list of certified commercial labs is available online at tn.gov/content/dam/tn/environment/water/drinking-water-unit/wr_wq_dw_approved-commercial-labs.pdf

Metro Water Services Laboratory

Waypoint Analytical

Tennessee Tech University Water Center, tntech.edu/research/wrc/lab.php
Cookeville, TN

Nashville.gov/water

Waypointanalytical.com

615-862-4591

901-213-2400

931-372-3538

Metro Water Services Laboratory has free sampling for MWS water customers. Sampling kits are available for pickup Monday - Friday, 7am-5pm, at the MWS Omohundro South Campus security gate, 1450 Lebanon Pike, Nashville, TN 37210.

Optionally, delivery of sampling kits to your location is available within a few business days. Please call 615-862-4923 or email mwspipeinformation@nashville.gov for questions about testing and kit availability.

- 7) Identify plumbing fixtures containing lead.** Although Tennessee law currently restricts the sale of plumbing fixtures not considered "Lead-Free," new brass faucets, fittings, and valves, even those advertised as "Lead-Free" may still contribute lead to drinking water.
- 8) Replace plumbing or fixtures containing lead.** Physical modifications or disturbances may cause lead release. **If you are planning to replace your lead service line, contact us at (615) 862-4923 or email us at mwspipeinformation@nashville.gov.**
- 9) Remove and clean aerators/screens on plumbing fixtures.** Over time, particles and sediment can collect in the aerator screen. Regularly remove and clean aerators screens located at the tip of faucets and remove any particles.
- 10) Water softeners and reverse osmosis units** will remove lead from water but can also make the water more corrosive to lead solder and plumbing by removing certain minerals; therefore, the installation of these treatment units at the point of entry into homes with lead plumbing should only be done under supervision of a qualified water treatment professional.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/lead, call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791, contact your health care provider, or reach out to the State of Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation by mailing:

Lead and Copper in Drinking Water
Davy Crockett Tower, 9th Floor
500 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243-1204

This notice is sent to you by Metro Water Services
State Water System ID Number: TN0000494

Phone: 615.862.4923 (Lead information) or 615.862.4600 (General customer care)

Email: MWSPiPEInformation@nashville.gov

Website: Nashville.gov\water