

HELP US PUT AN

END To LEAD



MOHAWK VALLEY
WATER AUTHORITY

Quality water... for life.

Do you have a lead water service line in your home?

The Mohawk Valley Water Authority is working to identify lead service lines in pre-1940's homes to help protect the health of our customers.

If your home was built before 1940, lead could be present in your pipes or fixtures. In older homes, lead can leach into the water due to pipe corrosion.



plastic



copper



steel



lead

Testing the pipes in your home to determine if they are lead is simple and requires only two common items: a flathead screwdriver and a magnet.

1. Start by locating the water service line in your home. It is attached to your water meter and typically found in the basement or crawl space. You should test the pipe that is between where the water line enters the basement wall and the water meter. Do not test the portion of the pipe on the other side of the meter, located away from the wall. If your pipes are made of rigid plastic, you do not need to test them. Please contact the **Water Quality Department** at **315-792-0338** to let them know that your pipes are made of plastic.
2. If your pipes are made of strong, good quality metal, using your screwdriver, scrape an exposed section of the pipe. (The pipe may be covered or wrapped; if so, peel away a small piece.) If scraping the pipe reveals:
 - a. A shiny "new penny" color, your pipe is copper.
 - b. A silver/white color, place a magnet on the pipe. If it sticks, your pipe is galvanized steel.
 - c. A silver/white color and the magnet does not stick, your pipe is lead.
3. Contact the **Water Quality Department** at **315-792-0338** to report the results of your test, as this is important information that needs to be recorded. It's estimated that there are about 2,500 lead or partial lead services in our area. By letting us know what your home's pipes are made of, you're helping MVWA put an end to lead.
4. If your pipe appears to be lead, the MVWA will take a water sample at your home and test it for free in our certified laboratory.

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For more information, visit www.mvwa.us



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WHAT'S NEXT?

Any lead is too much.

Lead can be harmful at very low levels, particularly in households with pregnant women, infants or young children. If your water has elevated lead levels, you should have the lead pipe or portions replaced.

- Service lines up to the curb stop are owned by MVWA; the remaining line is owned by the property owner.
- If you have lead pipes in your home, we will work with you to replace the full service line or lead portions.
- MVWA will cover the cost of replacing pipes under its ownership that appear to contain lead as soon as the owner's portion is replaced.
- A certified, experienced plumber can also help you eliminate the source of lead.

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In the meantime, if your water has elevated lead levels, here are some tips:



- **Use a filter to remove lead.**
- **Run the tap before use** – lead levels are at their highest when water has been sitting.



- **Use cold water for cooking** because hot water dissolves lead more quickly.
- **Clean aerators monthly** to remove accumulated lead.

We encourage residents of pre-1940's homes believed to have lead service lines to contact the **Water Quality Department** at **315-792-0338** to take advantage of our free testing in our certified laboratory.

There are about 2,500 lead or partial lead service lines in our service area. We'd like your help to identify and remove these lines.

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**For more information, visit www.mvwa.us
or call 315-792-0301**