



Village of Black Earth

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November 15, 2024

Dear Valued Customer,

The Village of Black Earth takes water quality and reliability very seriously. We recently completed a survey of all known information regarding the water laterals throughout the system. After reviewing our records and compiling an initial Village-wide inventory, it appears that your property may NOT have copper or HDPE (High Density Polyethylene) water service lateral.

This means that your water service lateral might be made of lead or galvanized steel. Lead and galvanized steel water lines can pose a risk to your health, as lead exposure can occur through drinking water, especially if lead pipes, plumbing fixtures, or solder are present in your home's water system.

The EPA requires each state to establish and enforce standards for public drinking water systems. In Wisconsin, the DNR has implemented procedures for the enforcement of these regulations for inventorying private side water service types. These Lead & Copper Rule Revisions are intended to provide greater protection of public health by reducing exposure to lead and copper in drinking water.

While the Village will continue to replace the portion of all water laterals under the streets as part of reconstruction projects, the portion nearest your home is the responsibility of each homeowner to maintain and replace.

We are committed to ensuring the safety of our customers. If you have any questions or would like further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at 608-767-2063 or via email at bepublicworks@blackearthwisconsin.com. You can also complete a short survey regarding your water service at <https://arcg.is/1PLeWT>.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

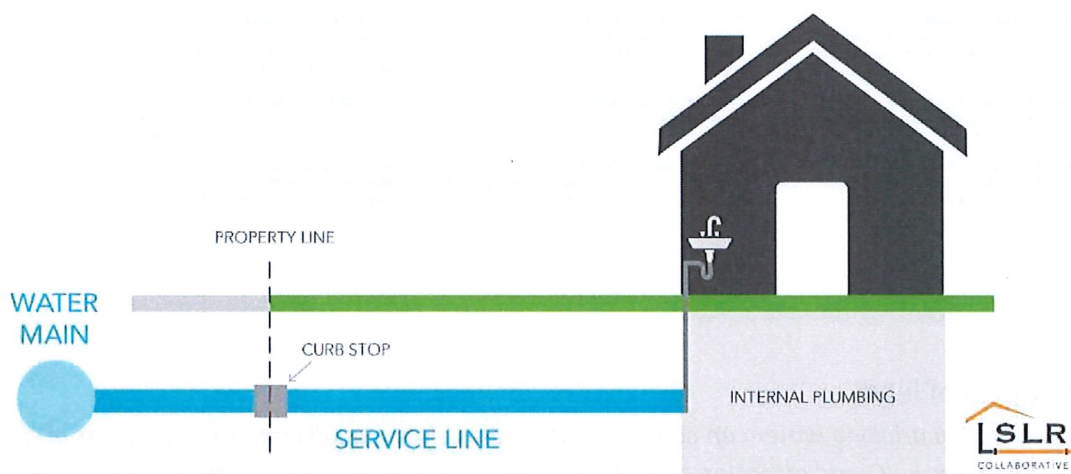
Regards,

Village of Black Earth Public Works Utilities

Notice of unknown service line material

The Village of Black Earth Utilities is focused on protecting the health of every household in our community. This notice contains important information about your drinking water. Please share this information with anyone who drinks and/or cooks using water at this property. In addition to people directly served at this property, this can include people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, businesses, as well as parents served by childcare at this

The Village of Black Earth Utilities is working to identify service line materials throughout the water system and has determined that the water pipe (called a service line) that connects your home to the water main is made from **unknown material** but may be lead. Because your service line material is unknown, there is the potential that some or all of the service line could be made of lead or galvanized pipe that was previously connected to lead. People living in homes with a lead or galvanized pipe previously connected to a lead service line have an increased risk of exposure to lead from their drinking water.



Identifying service line material

To help determine the material of your service line, please email bepublicworks@blackearthwisconsin.com, or call the public works department at 608-767-2063. EPA has developed an online step-by-step guide to help people identify lead pipes in their homes called Protect Your Tap: A Quick Check for Lead. It is available at: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/protect-your-tap-quick-check-lead>.

Pipe Identification Procedures

How To Identify A Lead Water Service Pipe

Tools Needed:

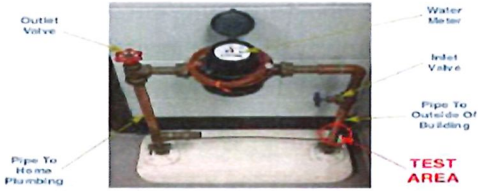
Flathead Screwdriver, Refrigerator Magnet & A Penny (or other coin)

Step 1:

Locate the water service line coming into the building.

This is typically found in the basement. An "inlet valve" and the water meter are installed on the pipe after the point of entry.

Identify a test area on the pipe between the point where it comes into the building and the inlet valve. If the pipe is covered or wrapped, expose a small area of metal.



Step 2:

Scratch the surface of the pipe.

Use the flat edge of a screwdriver or other tool to scratch through any corrosion that may have built up on the outside of the pipe.

Step 3:

Compare your pipe to the chart below.

Each type of pipe will produce a different type of scratch, react to the magnet differently and produce a unique sound when tapped with a metal coin.



Lead Pipes

The Scratch Test

If the scraped area is shiny and silver, your service line is lead.

The Magnet Test

A magnet will not stick to a lead pipe.

The Tapping Test

Tapping a lead pipe with a coin will produce a dull noise.



Copper Pipes

The Scratch Test

If the scraped area is copper in color, like a penny, your service line is copper.

The Magnet Test

A magnet will not stick to a copper pipe.

The Tapping Test

Tapping a copper pipe with a coin will produce a metallic ringing noise.



Galvanized Pipes

The Scratch Test

If the scraped area remains a dull gray, your service line is galvanized steel.

The Magnet Test

A magnet sticks to a galvanized pipe.

The Tapping Test

Tapping a galvanized pipe with a coin will produce a metallic ringing noise.

Health effects of lead

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems.¹

Steps you can take to reduce lead in drinking water.

Below are recommended actions that you may take, separately or in combination, if you are concerned about lead in your drinking water. The list also includes where you may find more information and is not intended to be a complete list or to imply that all actions equally reduce lead in drinking water.

Use filters properly. Using a filter can reduce lead in drinking water. If you use a filter, it should be certified to remove lead. Read any directions provided with the filter to learn how to properly install, maintain, and use your cartridge and when to replace it. Using the cartridge after it has expired can

¹ Text in italics is required and cannot be changed.

make it less effective at removing lead. Do not run hot water through the filter. For more information on facts and advice on home water filtration systems, see EPA's <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/consumer-tool-identifying-point-use-and-pitcher-filters-certified-reduce-lead>.

Clean your aerator. Regularly clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator). Sediment, debris, and lead particles can collect in your aerator. If lead particles are caught in the aerator, lead can get into your water.

Use cold water. Do not use hot water from the tap for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula as lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Boiling water does not remove lead from water.

Run your water. The more time water has been sitting in pipes providing water to your home, the more lead it may contain. Before drinking, flush your home's pipes by running the tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or doing a load of dishes. The amount of time to run the water will depend on whether your home has a lead service line or not, as well as the length and diameter of the service line and the amount of plumbing in your home. [Include tailored flushing information, if appropriate, or add following language] Residents may contact us at [phone number and/or email address] for recommendations about flushing times in their community.

Learn about construction in your neighborhood. Contact us at 608-767-2063 to find out about any construction or maintenance work that could disturb your service line. Construction may cause more lead to be released from a lead service line or galvanized service line if present.

Have your water tested. Contact us, Village of Black Earth Public Works, at 608-767-2063 to have your water tested and to learn more about the lead levels in your drinking water. Alternatively, you may contact a certified laboratory to have your water tested for lead. A list of certified laboratories is available at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/labCert/certified-lab-lists>. Note, a water sample may not adequately capture or represent all sources of lead that may be present. For information on sources of lead that include service lines and interior plumbing, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water#getinto>.

Get your child tested to determine lead levels in their blood.

Although there is no confirmation of having a lead service line, you may wish to speak with a healthcare provider to see if your child's blood lead level is elevated and/or if there is a need for blood testing, if you are concerned about potential exposure. Please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/advisory/acclpp/actions-blls.htm> for information on these actions.

For information about potential financing solutions to assist property owners with replacement of lead service lines, please contact us at 608-767-2063.

For more information on reducing lead exposure from your drinking water and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/lead>.