

## **Frequently Asked Questions: Lead and Copper Rule Compliance**

**The City of Ecorse is inspecting and replacing lead water service lines to comply with the Lead and Copper Rule. Below are answers to commonly asked questions to help you understand the process:**

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### **Q1: What is a lead service line?**

- **Answer: A lead service line is a pipe made of lead that connects your home to the water main in the street. Lead was commonly used in older homes built before 1988 but is no longer allowed because it can pose health risks.**
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### **Q2: Is the resident responsible for replacing their lead service line?**

- **Answer: No, the property owner is not responsible for replacing their lead service line. If your service line is made of lead, it will be documented and placed on the City's replacement list. The City will begin replacing these lines in spring 2025.**
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### **Q3: How can I tell if I have a lead service line?**

- **Answer: The only way to know for sure is through an inspection. If you received a letter, it means we need to check your service line. The City will let you know if your service line is made of lead after the inspection.**
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### **Q4: Will the DPW provide residents with lead-reducing filters?**

- **Answer: The City itself does not distribute water filters, but Ecorse is part of the Faucet and Filter Safety Net Program. Eligible households can request lead-reducing filters, replacement cartridges, and other services. To qualify:**
  - **You must live in Ecorse (or another designated community).**
  - **Your household must include a Medicaid-enrolled child under 19 or a Medicaid-enrolled pregnant person.**
  - **You must have (or suspect you have) lead or galvanized plumbing, a lead service line, or older faucets sold before 2014.**

### **Services provided through the program include:**

- **Home visits and visual plumbing assessments.**
- **Lead-reducing filters and replacement cartridges.**
- **Single faucet replacement if needed.**

- Assistance with signing up for the Medicaid Lead Abatement Program to address lead hazards in your home.

If you think you qualify, please fill out a Lead Services Application or contact the MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315 for assistance.

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**Q5: Will there be a cost for getting the water tested or pipes replaced?**

- Answer: No, there is no cost to the homeowner for water testing or the replacement of lead service lines. The City will replace the line from the water main to the meter at no charge to you.
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**Q6: Am I drinking lead if my water service line is made of lead?**

- Answer: Not necessarily. The City treats the water to reduce corrosion and minimize the risk of lead leaching into your water. However, lead can still get into water if the pipes corrode or if water sits in them for a long time. Use a lead-reducing filter, run cold water for a couple of minutes, and avoid using hot water from the tap for drinking or cooking.
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**Q7: I received a letter—does this mean I have a lead service line?**

- Answer: No, receiving the letter does not mean you have a lead service line. These letters were sent to all residents because we are required by law to inspect all service lines.
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**Q8: I live in a newly built home. Could I have a lead service line?**

- Answer: If your home was constructed after 1988, it is unlikely you have a lead service line. Lead was phased out of use after this time, but inspections are still required to ensure compliance.
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**Q9: Will my water be shut off during the inspection or replacement?**

- Answer: During the inspection, your water will not be shut off. If your service line is replaced, there may be a temporary interruption, but we'll notify you in advance.
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**Q10: How long will it take to replace my lead service line?**

- Answer: The replacement process usually takes a few hours, depending on the location and conditions. The City will coordinate with you to minimize inconvenience.
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**Q11: Do I need to be home for the inspection or replacement?**

- **Answer: You do not need to be home for the inspection if the service line can be accessed outside. For replacements, you may need to be home if the contractor needs access to the meter inside your house.**
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**Q12: What happens if I do nothing?**

- **Answer: If your service line is made of lead, it must be replaced to comply with the law and ensure safe drinking water. The City will handle the replacement, so you don't need to worry.**
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**Q13: Is this going to raise my water bill?**

- **Answer: No, replacing your lead service line will not affect your water bill. There is no cost to you for this replacement.**
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**Q14: I don't see any work happening yet. When will the replacements start?**

- **Answer: Lead service line replacements are scheduled to begin in spring 2025. The City will notify you when work is planned for your area.**
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**For additional questions, please contact the City of Ecorse DPW.**

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