

City of Highland Park
12050 Woodward Ave.
Highland Park, MI 48203-3578

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
GRAND RAPIDS, MI
PERMIT NO. 657

Date: November 13, 2024
**Notification that your water service
line is made of lead**

Dear Water Customer:

The Highland Park Water Department has determined that some or all of your water service line is made of lead. People living in homes with a lead service line have an increased risk of exposure to lead from their drinking water. This letter serves to notify you of this risk and provides information to help you reduce your risk of lead exposure. Please share this information with anyone who drinks and/or cooks using water at this property.

Partial replacement of service lines, where there is still lead or galvanized previously connected to lead materials remaining when service is restored, are banned due to increased lead exposure and potential health risks, except in the case of emergencies like a leak or loss of pressure.

If you have an issue with your side of the service line (generally, from the curb stop to the inside of your home), contact us at the Highland Park Water Department Customer Service Center at 313-865-1876 **before you contact a plumber** to coordinate efforts and fully replace the service line. If an emergency repair is necessary, take additional precautionary measures to reduce potential exposure to lead during replacement or construction.

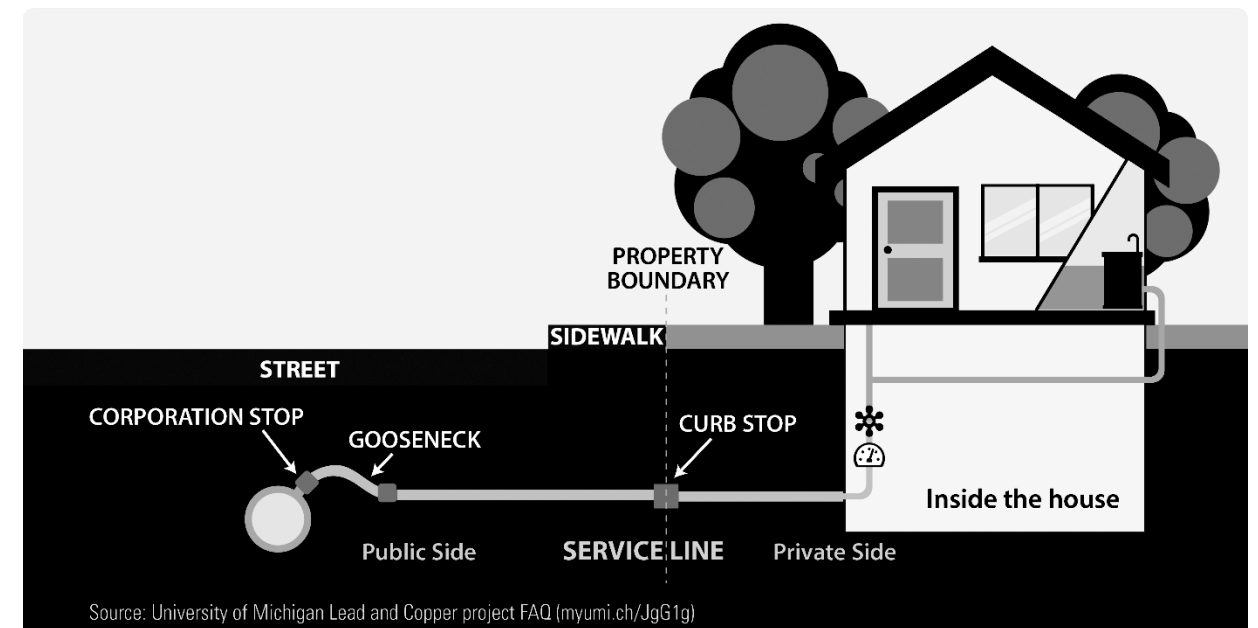
Highland Park is developing a plan to replace all water mains and lead and galvanized service lines by 2031, 10 years sooner than required by the Michigan Lead and Copper Rule. This program will be completed at no direct cost to residents. We are still developing our water infrastructure replacement plans subject to the requirements of the settlement and hope to release them in 2025.

Contact us

Please contact the **Highland Park Water Department Customer Service Center at 313-865-1876** if you have questions regarding this letter or disagree with the material determination. You can also call for additional information about the water system or a copy of Highland Park's Annual Water Quality Report.

Sincerely,

Damon Garrett,
Highland Park Water Department
313-865-1876



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 worsen existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these negative health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, and kidney, or nervous system problems.

Steps you can take to reduce your exposure to lead in your water

Below are recommended actions you may take, separately or in combination, to reduce your exposure to lead in your drinking water. In addition to your service line, other plumbing in your home may contain lead and could increase the levels of lead in your drinking water. These may include faucets, valves, and soldered joints.

Use a certified lead reducing filter.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recommends Michigan households use a certified lead-reducing drinking water filter if your home has or if you are uncertain if it has a source of lead, such as one of the following:

- A lead service line carrying water from the street to your residence.
- Lead or galvanized plumbing.
- Copper plumbing with lead solder before 1988.
- Old faucets and fittings that were sold before 2014.

Use the filter until you are able to remove sources of household lead plumbing, such as:

- Replace pre-2014 faucets.
- Get a lead inspection and replace needed plumbing.

Look for filters that are tested and certified to NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for lead reduction and NSF/ANSI Standard 42 for particulate reduction (Class I). For filters to work properly, follow the manufacturer's instructions.

In Highland Park, Medicaid enrolled households with children or pregnant individuals, or households with foster children, can now receive certified lead reducing filters through MDHHS. To request a filter delivery, contact the MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline at 1-844-934-1315. Both pitcher-style and faucet-mount filters are available. Additionally, qualifying households can receive a home visit for a visual plumbing inspection and up to one replacement faucet.

For more information on facts and advice on home water filtration systems, visit EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/consumer-tool-identifying-point-use-and-pitcher-filters-certified-reduce-lead>.

Always use bottled water or filtered water if preparing baby formula. You can also use premixed baby formula.

Clean your aerator. The aerator on the end of your faucet is a screen that will catch debris. This debris could include particulate lead. The aerator should be removed at least every six months to rinse out any debris

Use cold water for drinking and cooking. Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily into hot water.

Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Filter cold water, then boil the filtered water as necessary.

Run your water. The more time water has been sitting in your home's pipes, the more lead it may contain. Therefore, if your water has not been used for several hours, run the water before using it for drinking or cooking. This flushes lead-containing water from the pipes. Because your home has a lead service line, run the water for at least five minutes to flush water from your home or building's plumbing and the lead service line.

Check for other sources of lead. In addition to your service line, other plumbing in your home may contain lead and could increase the levels of lead in your drinking water. These may include faucets, valves, and soldered joints. It is recommended that homeowners contact a licensed plumber and have a plumbing assessment done to determine if your in-home plumbing is a source of lead in your drinking water.

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

Learn about your drinking water. Read Highland Park's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) that is mailed to you each year or find it here: <https://www.highlandparkmi.gov/services/water/>.

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

A family doctor or pediatrician can perform a blood test for lead and provide information about the health effects of lead. State, city, or county departments of health can also provide information about how you can have your child's blood tested for lead. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention recommends public health actions when the level of lead in a child's blood is 3.5 micrograms per deciliter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$) or more. For more information and links to CDC's website, please visit

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>.

Replacing lead service lines

All water supplies in Michigan are actively identifying and replacing service lines that contain lead and galvanized previously connected to lead. All portions of the service line that contain lead and galvanized previously connected to lead that the water system owns, as well as the homeowner's portion, must be replaced at the water supply's expense.