

ACTON WATER DISTRICT DRINKING WATER NOTICE

Your home is served by a Galvanized Requiring Replacement service line and your service line may contain lead.

This notice contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you or speak with someone who understands it.

Dear Customer,

Water systems are now required to document all water service line materials and identify any lead or lead containing materials. Our most recent inventory has determined that a portion of, or the entire, water pipe (called a service line) that connects your building to the water main is made from galvanized material and may have absorbed lead. EPA has defined these service lines as “**galvanized requiring replacement**”. This material is not made of lead but may have built up lead deposits over time due to an existing or previous upstream lead service line; it can be a source of lead in your drinking water.

The EPA has defined “Galvanized Requiring Replacement” to mean where a galvanized service line is or was at any time downstream of a lead service line or is currently downstream of a “Lead Status Unknown” service line. If the water system is unable to demonstrate that the galvanized service line was never downstream of a lead service line, it must presume there was an upstream lead service line.

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.

Steps you can take to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water.

- **Run your water to flush out lead.** Lead levels increase over time as water sits in lead-containing plumbing materials. Before drinking or cooking with your water after it has sat overnight or longer, flush your home’s pipes by running water through the kitchen faucet, taking a shower, or doing any other non-consumptive water usage. Run the water for at least 1 minute or until after it turns cold. 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.
- **Use only cold, fresh water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula.** Run the water for at least 1 minute or until after it turns cold.
- **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water does not remove 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. Lead particles can release lead into your water. See how to clean your aerator at [important-resources-for-safe-drinking-water.pdf \(epa.gov\)](#).
- **Use your filter properly, if you use a filter.** Filters can reduce lead in drinking water. Make sure it is certified by NSF to remove lead- it will say so on the package. Follow directions to properly install, use, and replace your filter. Do not run hot water through the filter. For more information, and which certifications to look for, visit EPA’s website at <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/consumer-tool-identifying-point-use-and-pitcher-filters-certified-reduce-lead>.
- **Identify and replace plumbing fixtures** containing lead and any copper piping with lead solder.
- **Have your child’s blood tested for lead.** Children are a higher risk group of the health effects of lead. If you would like to have your child tested, you may contact your health care provider, or local state health

department here: **Acton Health Department (978) 929-6632** or **Massachusetts Department of Public Health (617) 624-6000**.

- **Have your water tested for lead. You cannot see, taste or smell lead in drinking water.** Contact our system for more information about lead in your drinking water and how to get your water tested by a state certified laboratory. See the list of labs here: [Certified Laboratory Search Results](https://www.mass.gov/how-to/find-a-certified-laboratory-for-water-testing) (<https://www.mass.gov/how-to/find-a-certified-laboratory-for-water-testing>).

Opportunities to Replace Galvanized Requiring Replacement Service Lines

The Acton Water District is developing a Pilot Lead Service Line Replacement Program with the goal of removing all the lead and galvanized requiring replacement service lines in the water system. Consumers may view the Acton Water District Service Line Replacement Plan at this website when it is complete: <https://www.actonwater.com/>. We anticipate starting the Pilot Program during the 2025 construction season.

If you are planning on replacing the portion of the service line that you own, please notify us at (978) 263 9107 or WQ@actonwater.com.

For MassDEP information on Lead in Drinking Water see <https://www.mass.gov/lead-in-drinking-water>

Please notify the Acton Water District if you disagree with the service line material categorization in our service line inventory, using the contact information below.

For more information, contact Katy Orciuch at (978) 263-9107 or WQ@actonwater.com

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water at this address, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by the Acton Water District PWS ID#: 2002000

Date distributed: November 13, 2024

Distributed media type USPS