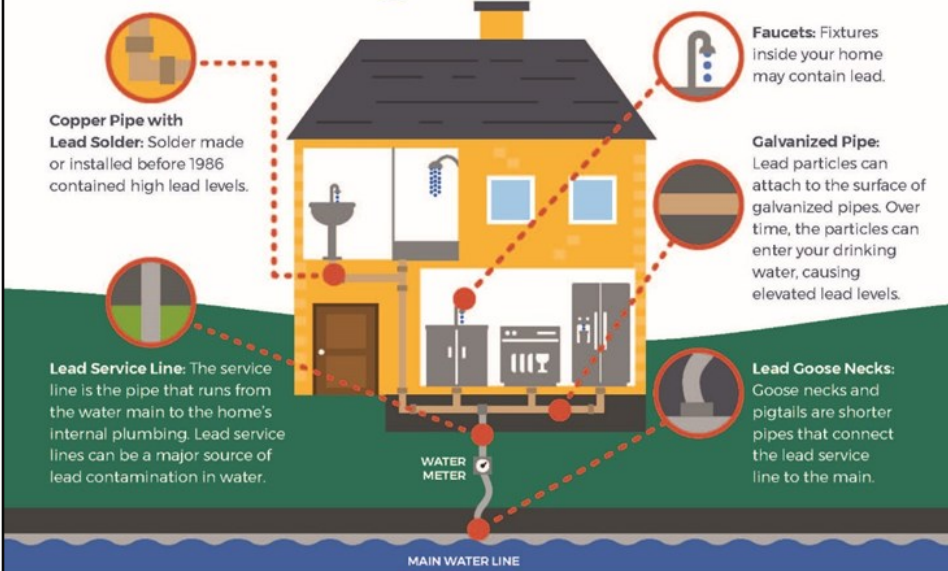




CONCERNED ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER?

# Sources of LEAD in Drinking Water



## Reduce Your Exposure To Lead



Use only cold water for drinking, cooking and making baby formula. *Boiling water does not remove lead from water.*



Regularly clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator).



Consider using a water filter certified to remove lead and know when it's time to replace the filter.



Before drinking, flush your pipes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes.

To find out for certain if you have lead in drinking water, **have your water tested.**

## Replace Your Lead Service Line



Water systems are required to replace lead service lines if a water system cannot meet EPA's Lead Action Level through optimized corrosion control treatment.

Replacement of the lead service line is often the responsibility of both the utility and homeowner.

Homeowners can contact their water system to learn about how to remove the lead service line.

## Identify Other Lead Sources In Your Home

Lead in homes can also come from sources other than water. If you live in a home built before 1978, you may want to have your paint tested for lead. **Consider contacting your doctor to have your children tested if you are concerned about lead exposure.**



For more information, visit: [epa.gov/safewater](http://epa.gov/safewater)

# Is My Service Line Lead?

**Check your service line** between the water main and the meter in your home with a flat edge of a screwdriver and a kitchen magnet. Water meters are typically installed in the basement.

Find a test area between where the pipe comes into the building before the inlet valve. Use a flat screwdriver to scratch through corrosion on the outside of the pipe. If the scraped area is silver and shiny and the magnet will not stick to it, your service line is lead.

## Lead Pipe

If the scraped area is shiny and silver, your service line is lead. A magnet will not stick to a lead pipe.



## Copper Pipe

If the scraped area is copper in color, like a penny, your service line is copper. A magnet will not stick to a copper



## Galvanized Steel Pipe

If the scraped area remains a dull gray, and a magnet sticks to the surface, your service line is galvanized steel.



Watch the Green Bay Water Utility's demonstration to test your private water service line:

[https://youtu.be/-4\\_cW7KxNxw](https://youtu.be/-4_cW7KxNxw)



# IS THERE LEAD IN THE WATER?

## Lead in Water Facts:

- Most drinking water sources in Wisconsin contain very low levels of lead.
- Water can dissolve the lead in lead pipes or lead solder used in the joints of galvanized steel or copper pipes.
- “Soft” water is more corrosive than “hard” water because it is more acidic.
- The Racine Water Utility treats the public water supply with a blended phosphate. This creates a thin protective film on the inside of pipes and plumbing fixtures to limit corrosion and reduce the amount of lead dissolved into the water.

## Sources of Lead in Drinking Water:

- Plumbing in the home is the primary source of lead in water.
  - ◆ Lead supply lines were used mainly before the 1940s.
  - ◆ Solder that contains lead was banned from use in 1986.
  - ◆ Fixtures in your home may contain lead, especially those made of brass or bronze.
- Lead service lines supplying water to the home.
- In the water supply, lead is more common in well water and water with lower hardness levels (“soft” water).
- In well water, well screens and packing collars may be made of lead.

## Reduce Lead Concentration in Water:

- Run water from each faucet 2-3 minutes to flush out water that has sat in the pipes for more than 6 hours and may contain higher levels of lead. Flushing the pipes replaces standing water with fresh water.
- Only use cold water for cooking and drinking. Hot water may contain higher lead concentrations.

## When to Test Your Water:

- The home was built before October 1984, or the plumbing was updated or altered before October 1984.
- The plumbing fixtures are made of brass or bronze.
- The service line connecting to the street water main is, or may be, lead.

## The Plumbing in Your Home:

- Contact the Racine Water Utility at 262-636-9181 for information about your home’s service line.
- Contact a licensed plumber to have your private water service inspected for lead pipe or solder.
- Contact the Racine Building Department at 262-636-9464 to get information about past plumbing permits, renovations, and the construction dates for the home.

## Have Your Home’s Water Tested for Lead:

- Contact the Racine Water Utility at 262-636-9181 to see if your home is eligible for a lead in water test.
- Contact a certified laboratory for information on testing lead in drinking water. Visit the Wisconsin DNR website below and select Drinking Water Lead Testing Labs for a current list of laboratories certified to perform lead testing on drinking water: <https://dnr.wi.gov/regulations/labcert/labLists.html>.

## Racine Water Utility Lead Service Line Replacement Program:

The Racine Water Utility implemented a program to replace service lines made of lead at little to no cost to homeowners. Many older homes, especially those built before 1950, have a lead service line, which runs from the water main under the street to the water meter inside the home. Contact the Water Utility at 262-636-9181 to find out if your home is eligible for this program.

More program information is available at: <http://www.cityofracine.org/Water/ServiceLateralRebateProgram/>.

## Other Sources of Lead in Your Home:

Lead paint in homes built before 1978 is the primary source of lead exposure for young children. For more information about lead poisoning prevention, contact the City of Racine Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at 262-636-9538, or visit <http://www.cityofracine.org/Health/Lead/>.