



Kent County Water Systems

June 10, 2025

Notice of Unknown Service Line Material Classification

Please share this information with anyone who drinks and/or cooks using water at this property.

Your assistance is requested below to help determine your water service line material.

Dear Water Customer(s),

In compliance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) latest Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR), we write to share information about our efforts to develop an inventory of service line materials in our water service area and to request your help in providing information regarding your service line.

The EPA's LCRR strives to mitigate health risks and improve protections for children and communities stemming from lead exposure in drinking water by identifying lead service lines, developing a complete service line material inventory and empowering communities through information.

To comply with the LCRR, Kent County launched a program to identify service line materials with the aid of residents and/or building owners. An online portal for submitting photos of customer-owned portions of service lines exists at the following link www.KentCounty.com/Water/ServiceLines.

As part of our efforts to identify service line materials throughout the water service area, we have determined that either a part, or all, of the service line that connects your property to the water main/water supply is undetermined or an unknown material. Since the service line material is currently unknown, we are providing the following information out of an abundance of caution as it is possible that the service line material could contain lead.

Effective May 17, 1972, lead pipe was not included as one of the acceptable materials for water service pipes under Maryland law; therefore, if a building was constructed after this date, there is a low likelihood that the service line is made of lead.

Kent County maintains an inventory of its service lines. In order to establish a complete service line material inventory, we need your help in identifying the pipe material on your side of the service line located on your property.

How to Identify Your Service Line Material

To help us determine the material of your service line, please contact Tracey Usilton at 410-778-4607 or tusilton@kentgov.org or view www.KentCounty.com/Water/ServiceLines for more information. 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>.

Cómo identificar el material de su línea de servicio

Para ayudarnos a determinar el material de su línea de servicio, comuníquese con Tracey Usilton al 410-778-4607 o escriba a tusilton@kentgov.org, o visite www.KentCounty.com/Water/ServiceLines para obtener más información. La EPA ha desarrollado una guía paso a paso en línea para ayudar a las personas a identificar las tuberías de plomo en sus hogares, llamada "Proteja su grifo: Una revisión rápida de plomo". Está disponible en: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/protect-your-tap-quick-check-lead>.

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.

Recommended Steps to Reduce Lead Exposure

If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, the EPA recommends several steps you can take to help reduce possible exposure. Please note, this is not intended to be a complete list or to imply that all actions equally reduce lead in drinking water.

- **Run your water to flush out the lead.** The more time water has been sitting in pipes providing water to your home, the more lead it may contain. Before drinking, if water has not been used for several hours, 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 the service line pipe connecting to the building is made of lead, as well as the length and diameter of the service line and the amount of plumbing in the building.
- **Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Lead dissolves more easily in hot water.
- **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead levels.
- **Get your child tested.** Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead, if you are concerned about exposure.
- **If you use a filter to remove lead from drinking water, it should be certified for lead removal.** 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 make it less effective at removing lead. 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>.
- **Clean your aerator.** Regularly remove and 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.

Please view www.KentCounty.com/Water/ServiceLines for more information or contact Tracey Usilton at 410-778-4607 or tusilton@kentgov. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/lead> or contact your health care provider.

Best regards,

Tracey Usilton

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