



May 15, 2024

CURRENT RESIDENT
ADDRESS
ROCK ISLAND IL 61201

Subject: Water Service Line Material - LEAD

Dear Resident,

The City of Rock Island partnered with Augustana College to develop a Water Service Line Material Inventory as required by law. Along with water customer input, determinations were made based upon reviewing historical data and records, which includes past excavations, plat years, age of home construction and common materials used, record drawings from water main replacement projects, ordinances and occasional unearthing.

Our inventory has categorized the material of your water service line as being constructed partially or in whole with **LEAD** piping and will be counted among the water lines needing to be replaced.

Due to the LEAD status of your water service, we need to inform you about the potential 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.

Please refer to the Lead Information Notice provided on the reverse side of this letter, which offers guidance on reducing lead exposure.

Lead Service Line Replacement is required to begin in 2027 and will follow an IEPA-approved plan designed to remove all the lead services. The City has developed an initial replacement plan which can be viewed on the City's website at rigov.org/lead.

Funding the Lead Service Line Replacement Plan is still being considered and will be finalized in the Final Replacement Plan in 2027. Partial lead service line replacement is prohibited, with exceptions and certain limitations in emergency repair situations.

If your water service line is not made of LEAD, please assist the City in our continued efforts to identify services by visiting the City's website at rigov.org/lead to "Report Your Type of Water Service Line" (whether lead, copper or galvanized).

We appreciate your cooperation.

LEAD INFORMATION NOTICE

Important Information About Your Drinking Water

Lead, a metal found in natural deposits, is harmful to human health, especially young children, and pregnant women. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that can carry oxygen to all parts of your body. The most common exposure to lead is swallowing or breathing in lead paint chips and dust. However, lead in drinking water can also be a source of lead exposure. In the past, lead was used in some water service lines and household plumbing materials. Lead in water usually occurs through corrosion of plumbing products containing lead; however, disruption (construction or maintenance) of lead service lines may also **temporarily** increase lead levels in the water supply. This disruption may be sometimes caused by water main maintenance/replacement.

The purpose of this notice is for informational purposes only. While it is not known for certain whether or not this disruption will adversely affect the lead (if present) plumbing in and outside your home, the following information provides some preventative measures you can take to help reduce the amount of lead in drinking water, if present.

What you can do to reduce lead exposure in drinking water during this disruption:

- **Run your water to flush out lead.** If the plumbing in your home is accessible; you may be able to inspect your own plumbing to determine whether you have a lead service line. Otherwise, you will most likely have to hire a plumber.
 - If you do not have a lead service line, running the water for 1 to 2 minutes at the kitchen tap should clear the lead from your household plumbing to the kitchen tap. Once you have done this, fill a container with water and store it in the refrigerator for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula throughout the day.
 - If you do have a lead service line, flushing times can vary based on the length of your lead service line and the plumbing configuration in your home. The length of lead service lines varies considerably. Flushing for at least 3 to 5 minutes is recommended.
- **Use cold water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula.** Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap. Lead dissolves more easily in hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
- **Look for alternative sources or treatment of water.** You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter that is certified to remove “total lead”.
- **Clean and remove any debris from faucet aerators on a regular basis.**
- **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead.
- **Purchase lead-free faucets and plumbing components.**
- **Remove the entire lead service line, if present.**
- **Test your water for lead.** While the City or the IEPA does not do the testing, the IEPA can provide a list of laboratories certified to do the testing. Laboratories will send you the bottles for sample collection. **Please note that we are not affiliated with the laboratories and they will charge you a fee.** If you are interested in receiving a list of laboratories certified to do the testing, please feel free to call the **EPA Safe Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791**.
 - If test results indicate a lead level above 15ug/L, bottle water should be used by pregnant women, breast-feeding women, young children and formula fed infants.

For additional information, visit the United States Environmental Protection Agency website at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead or call the EPA Safe Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

If you have any further questions, please contact Jason Upton, Utilities Superintendent, at 309-732-2200.