What Is the Cost?
The estimated cost of the private lead water service replacement will be determined after an initial review of the property. Eligible homeowners may qualify for a credit of up to $1,000 towards the cost of the replacement by enrolling in this voluntary program.

How Can I Pay?
Homeowners will have the ability to pay for the lead service replacement either:
- In a lump sum payment
- Over a 24-month period as part of the water and sewer bill, interest-free

How to Apply
To register, call the Lead Hotline at 617-989-7888. Your property will be reviewed. Once the cost is determined, you may enroll, if eligible. Service replacement work is generally performed from April to October and is subject to availability.

Additional Information
For more information, call the Lead Hotline at 617-989-7888.

Supplemental Information
Boston Public Health Commission
www.bphc.org
617-534-5395

Department of Environmental Protection
www.mass.gov/eea/ agencies/massdep/water/
E-mail: Program.Director-DWP@state.ma.us
617-292-5500

Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov/lead
1-800-424-LEAD (5323)

Massachusetts Water Resources Authority
www.mwra.com
617-242-LEAD (5323)

Martin J. Walsh
Mayor, City of Boston

Henry F. Vitale
Executive Director/CFO and Treasurer
What Is a Private Water Service?

It is the portion of the water service pipe running from the property line into the building. This pipe may be made of or contain lead.

The Program

The Lead Replacement Incentive Program was created to encourage Boston's homeowners to replace the private lead water service at their property. While private water service connections are the responsibility of the owner, the Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC) has developed this voluntary program as an incentive to remove the lead from water services in homes. Financial assistance in the form of a credit up to $1,000 towards the cost of replacement and ability to pay over a 24-month period are available to eligible residential homeowners.

Who Is Eligible?

Boston property owners are eligible to participate in the Lead Replacement Incentive Program if all of the following conditions are met:

- The property is a one-to three-family residential building.
- The property is served by a two-inch or smaller water service pipe.
- The water and sewer account for the property is active and not delinquent.
- The homeowner agrees to have the work done by BWSC.
- The work presents no extraordinary physical or other obstacles. For example, BWSC will not make a repair that requires removal of a porch, stairs, wall, fence, or shrubs.

BWSC reserves the right to determine eligibility of a property under the Lead Replacement Incentive Program.

Why Replace a Lead Service?

Lead generally is not present in source water but can enter the tap water through corrosion of plumbing materials. Prior to 1950, brass water pipes were used for interior plumbing in homes while lead was used for exterior plumbing connections. If the service line is made of lead, you are encouraged to replace it to protect the health of people in the building.

Lead and Your Health

Excessive amounts of lead in the body can cause health risks. The greatest risk is to young children and pregnant women. Amounts of lead that won't hurt adults can slow down mental and physical development in growing bodies.

What Can I Do to Reduce the Risk?

Follow these simple steps to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water:

- Flush your home’s water system by running the tap until the water is cold to the touch before drinking, especially if you have not used the water for a few hours. The longer water remains standing in a lead pipe, the greater the chance lead can dissolve into the water.
- Use only cold water for drinking and cooking. Put a bottle of water in the refrigerator at night for early morning use.
- Replace your private lead water service.