

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 the 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.

LEAD HOTLINE

(617) 989-7888



Boston Water and Sewer Commission

980 Harrison Avenue
Boston, MA 02119-2540

(617) 989-7000

www.bwsc.org

Additional Sources of Information

Boston Water and Sewer Commission

www.bwsc.org
(617) 989-7000

Boston Public Health Commission

www.bphc.org
(617) 534-5966

Environmental Protection Agency

www.epa.gov/lead
1-800-426-LEAD

Department of Environmental Protection

www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/dwshome.htm
email: Program.Director-DWP@state.ma.us
(617) 292-5770

Massachusetts Water Resources Authority

www.mwra.com
(617) 242-5323



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The Lead Replacement Incentive Program



Boston Water and
Sewer Commission

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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 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 24 month period is available to eligible homeowners.

What is a Private Lead Water Service?

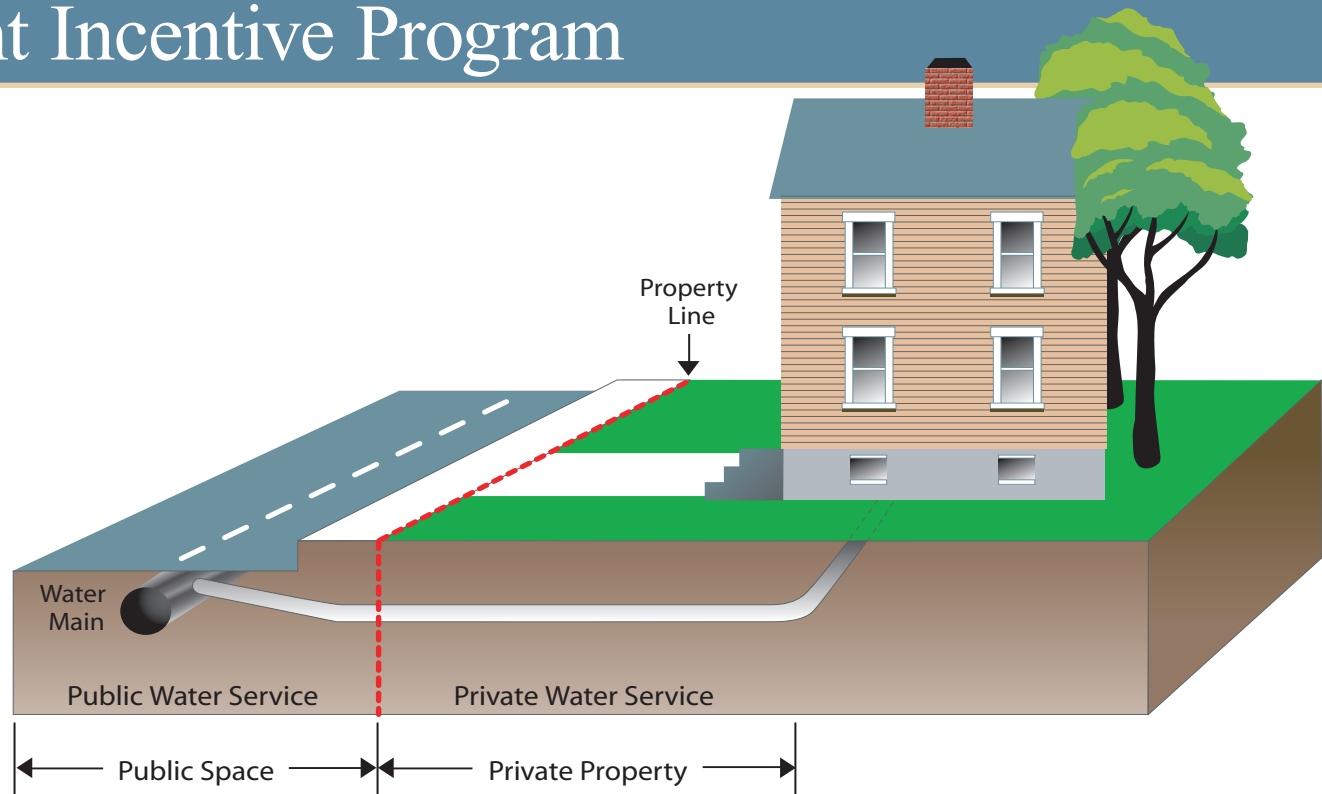
It is the portion of the water service pipe running from the property line into the building that is made of or contains lead.

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.

Who is Eligible?

Boston owners of residential property with active water and sewer accounts and with water service pipes of two inch (2") diameter or less. The homeowner must agree to have the work done by the Commission and the account must not be delinquent.



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; or
- Over a 24-month period as part of the water and sewer bill, interest free.

How to Apply?

Complete the Request for Estimate form. If you have questions, 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.

For additional information
call the **Lead Hotline at (617) 989-7888**



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