

Currents

BWSC Newsletter Jul/Aug 2024

BWSC @ Work

Get Your Lead Service Line Replaced for Free!



This summer, BWSC staff will be canvassing Boston neighborhoods with flyers promoting the Commission's **No Cost Private Lead Replacement Program!** Participants of the program can have their private lead water service pipe replaced for **free**. This program is available to Boston property owners as a result of receiving more than \$4 million dollars this year in federal infrastructure funding for lead pipe replacements.

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups, especially in our youth. Boston's drinking water is distributed to homes and businesses lead free. However, some water service pipes located in older properties in Boston that connect to BWSC's water mains can be lead. When lead comes in contact with water, it can dissolve into the water and that's how lead can end up in drinking water. Other sources of lead can be found in the solder on copper pipes as well as in brass pipes or fixtures.

If you live in or own an older property and the water service pipe is lead, now is the time to have the lead pipe replaced for free! Take advantage of this program at no cost and reduce the health risks associated with lead in drinking water. **If you receive a flyer at your property from BWSC please give us a call.** If you are home or at your business when we stop by, our knowledgeable staff will be glad to answer your questions and inspect your service pipe. Our staff can also schedule a convenient time to inspect your water service pipe and if it is determined to be lead, staff will make arrangements to replace the pipe, at no cost to the owner!

If you have a lead water service pipe and previously declined to participate in the program for any reason, BWSC is asking you to reconsider now and have the private lead service line replaced free of charge. For questions about the program or to schedule a free inspection which only takes a few minutes, call BWSC's Lead Hotline: **(617) 989-7888**. Together, let's get the lead out.

Protect Yourself! Always Ask for Identification



BWSC is reminding residents not to allow anyone the ability to gain unauthorized entrance to their home. BWSC employees and contractors are required to carry an official photo identification card. Before allowing anyone into your home or property, always ask for identification. If you are unsure about allowing someone who claims to be a BWSC employee or working for one of our contractors, please call 617-989-7000 for verification.



Water Conservation Guide

Become a pro at conserving water this summer!



Outdoor Water Conservation

- The best times to water plants and grass are dawn and dusk.
- Grass naturally becomes dormant in the summer months and brown patches of grass may appear on your lawn. However, grass will revive quickly after a steady rainfall or in cooler weather.
- Raise the mower blade level to 2-3 inches allowing longer grass growth, this helps lawns retain more moisture, grow deeper roots, use less fertilizer, and compete better against weeds.



Indoor Water Conservation

- Fix leaky faucets, pipes and toilets. This can save hundreds of gallons of water per week.
- Turn off the tap while brushing teeth, shaving, or washing dishes.
- Run dishwashers and washing machines only when full, or adjust the water level setting accordingly.
- Keep a jug of water in your refrigerator for drinking rather than running the tap each time you're thirsty.

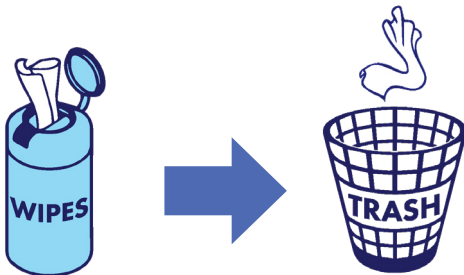


Water Conservation Kit

Boston residents are encouraged to get their home water conservation efforts into high gear by requesting a free water conservation kit. Conservation kits are available to Boston residents only. To order your kit, go to www.bwsc.org or call us at 617-989-7500.

Conservation Kit Includes:

- Easy to use instructions.
- Kitchen and bathroom faucet aerators.
- A low-flow replacement showerhead.
- A water efficiency gauge bag.
- Dye tablets to check for toilet leaks.



Keep Wipes Out of Pipes!

Wipes that claim to be "flushable" and "sewer safe" in fact are not sewer friendly. Unlike toilet paper, wipes do not break down as they travel through pipes and the public sewer system. Wipes can cause backups in your home plumbing and can cause sewer overflows in the street. Don't flush wipes - place them in the trash after use!