Sources of lead in drinking water

There is no lead in the water leaving the treatment plant or in the water in the distribution system.

Service line

This is the pipe that brings water from the main into your home. In older homes, these could be lead.

The city owns the line from the main to the meter, including the meter. The homeowner owns the portion from the meter to the home, as well as all the plumbing in the home.

Lead plumbing

Some older homes may have lead pipes.

Lead solder

This is the material used to connect metal household pipes to each other. Lead solder was allowed until 1987.

Brass plumbing fixtures

There is brass is in almost all faucets, valves and fittings used in household plumbing. Until 2014, these materials could contain up to 8 percent lead and still be classified as "lead-free."

Galvanized steel pipes

Private plumbing lines in some older homes could be made of this material, which corrodes easily. If your home has or had a lead service line, galvanized pipe can trap the lead in corrosion and release lead into the water.

Additional Information

U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention:
Lead in Drinking Water Information
www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/tips/water.htm

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:
Lead in Drinking Water Information
www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water

Tarrant County Public Health
A Nationally Accredited Health Department

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WATER

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Testing your water for lead

Any customer can have their water sampled for lead by a certified laboratory. The Fort Worth Water Laboratory is certified and can perform the testing for $15 per sample. Customers interested in having this done can call 817-392-4477.

A list of other certified laboratories can be found on the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's website at www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/compliance/compliance_support/qa/txnelap_lab_list.pdf

Other sources of lead exposure

Despite concerns about drinking water, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency notes that "the greatest exposure to lead is swallowing or breathing in lead paint chips or dust." Possible lead sources are:

- Lead based paint.
- Lead in the air from industrial emissions.
- Lead in soil from past emissions by automobiles using leaded gas, together with paint chips and lead paint dust.
- Lead byproducts brought home by industrial workers on their clothes and shoes.
- Lead in consumer products and food, such as some imported candies, medicines, dishes, toys, jewelry and plastics.

Tips for reducing lead in drinking water

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fortworthtexas.gov/water/lead
817-392-4477

Tips for reducing lead

in drinking water

FORT WORTH® WATER

Running cold water from the faucets you use for drinking can improve water quality.

The most important time to let water run is after long periods of no use, such as first thing in the morning, after work or upon returning from vacation.

Let the water run for two to five minutes to flush the line.

Even if you do not have a lead service line, plumbing fixtures like faucets, valvesand solder can contain small amounts of lead. Flushing still helps reduce lead exposure.

There are ways to flush lines and conserve water. Showering, washing clothes, flushing the toilet and running the dishwasher are effective methods for allowing fresh water from the distribution system to enter household pipes.

Never use water from the hot water tap for cooking or mixing baby formula.

Hot water causes higher amounts of lead to be released from plumbing materials. Also, hot water heaters are sources of bacteria and other metals. Instead, heat cold water for cooking.

Remove and clean faucet aerators.

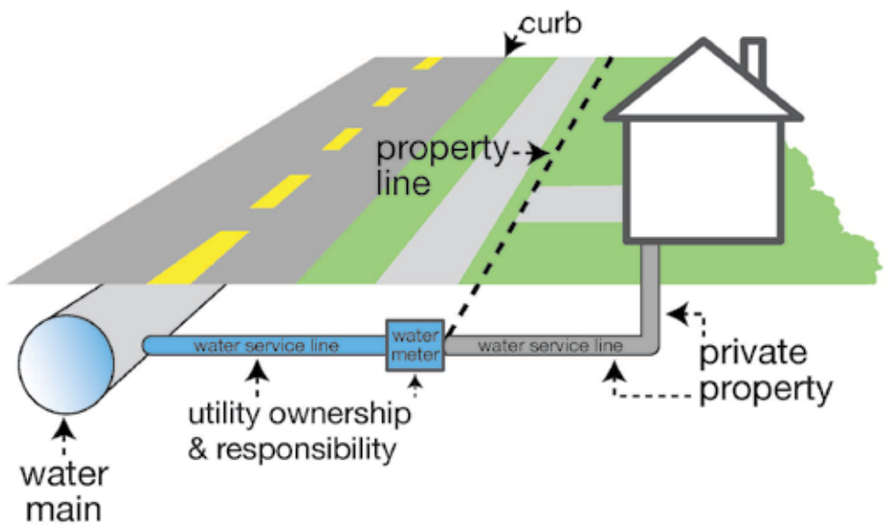
Sediment and lead particles can be trapped by the screen on the end of faucets. Regularly remove and clean these.

Replace lead service lines.

Fort Worth Water's goal is to replace the publically-owned portion of all lead service lines over the next several years.

If you plan to replace the private portion of your lead service line, Fort Worth Water will work with you to replace our portion at the same time.

Understanding Service Line Ownership



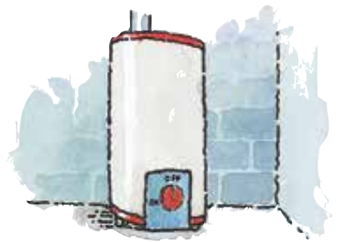
Replace all lead plumbing components.

Lead solder, lead piping and brass fixtures that contain lead could be part of your private plumbing. A licensed plumber can help.

When purchasing replacement plumbing products, look for plumbing products that are NSF-certified and meet Standard NSF/ANSI 61 and/or 372. These products have been certified to meet the new lead-free requirement.

Drain your water heater annually.

Metals, sediment and bacteria can build up over time in your water heater. A licensed plumber can drain it, if you are uncomfortable doing it yourself.



Use a water filter.

Fort Worth is not promoting the use of water filters, but there are filters certified for lead removal. These could be ones that attach to the end of a faucet or are in pitchers.

It is important that the model you select is certified to reduce lead according to NSF/ANSI-53.

If you use a home treatment device, make sure it is properly maintained. Failure to replace filters at the intervals specified by the manufacture can result in bacterial growth in the filter, resulting in water contamination. This also applies to filters used on refrigerator water dispensers and ice makers.