

Valley Water District

14515 Pioneer Way East, Puyallup, WA 98372

Telephone: 253-841-9698 / Fax: 253-770-8959

Email: service@valleywaterdistrict.com

November 5, 2024

Current Resident

A recent Environmental Protection Agency ruling requires that every Public Water System conduct an inventory of all public and private water lines by October of 2024 to determine if there are any lead service lines. Valley Water District is in compliance with that rule and has submitted the findings that we have available with no lead found in any of our systems. The District is VERY CONFIDENT that there is no lead in any of our systems based on the knowledge, experience and history of our current staff over the last 20+ years. There has been no lead found or suspected in any of the water systems we have repaired or maintained. Unfortunately, because all of the systems were either purchased or donated to the District, there are not accurate drawings or information of the all of the materials installed in each system. Therefore, until we have the time and resources available to identify all of the service lines, the District has to list them as "Unknown, likely not lead".

Because there are materials in the ground that technically are not known, the District is required by law to send this notification to all customers who are being served that the material is unknown. This includes private service lines for homes that were built prior to 1986 (lead was banned in all water lines at the federal level in 1986, so any homes built after that do not have lead in their service lines).

If your home was built before 1986, and you know what material your water service line is made of please contact our office by email or phone with the information listed below. Email: service@valleywaterdistrict.com or call: 253-841-9698.

Your service address

The year your home was built

The year your service line was installed or replaced

The material your service line is made of (PVC, poly, galvanized steel, lead, copper)

The District is very confident that there is no lead or lead materials in any of the District infrastructure based on historical knowledge, but cannot be 100% certain until we dig down and identify the material on the District side. However, the following information is required to be distributed to all properties that have material identified as "unknown". Please turn this page over to see the required notification.

Notice of Unknown Service Line Material

Valley Water District is focused on protecting the health of every household in our community. This notice contains important information about your drinking water. Please share this information with anyone who drinks and/or cooks using water at this property.

Valley Water District has determined that a portion or the entire water pipe (called a service line) that connects your home, building or other structure to the water main is made from unknown material and although very unlikely, may be lead. Because your service line material is unknown, there is the potential that some or all of the service line could be made of lead or galvanized pipe that was previously connected to lead.

Identifying Service Line Material

To help determine the material of your service line the EPA developed an online step-by-step guide to help people identify lead pipes in their homes: [Protect Your Tap: A Quick Check for Lead](#). Use the following link to access: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/protect-your-tap-quick-check-lead-0>.

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 worsen existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these negative health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, and kidney, or nervous system problems.

Steps to Reduce Lead in Drinking Water

Use your filter properly. Using a filter can reduce lead in drinking water. If you use a filter, it should be certified to remove lead. For more information on facts and advice on home water filtration systems, [visit EPA's filters to reduce lead website](https://www.epa.gov/water-research/consumer-tool-identifying-point-use-and-pitcher-filters-certified-reduce-lead) at <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/consumer-tool-identifying-point-use-and-pitcher-filters-certified-reduce-lead>.

Clean your aerator. Regularly remove and clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator). Sediment, debris, and lead particles can collect in your aerator. If lead particles are caught in the aerator, lead can get into your water.

Use cold water. Do not use hot water from the tap for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula as lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Boiling water does not remove lead from water.

Run your water. The more time water has been sitting in pipes providing water to your home, the more lead it may contain. Before drinking, flush your home's pipes by running the tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or doing a load of dishes.

For more information on reducing lead exposure from your drinking water and the health effects of lead, [visit EPA's Lead website](https://www.epa.gov/lead) at <https://www.epa.gov/lead>.

Please contact Valley Water District at service@valleywaterdistrict.com or 253-841-9698 if you have additional questions or concerns regarding this issue.