

# LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT FAQS

The Borough of Red Bank is currently developing a borough-wide initiative to verify pipe materials and implement a lead pipe replacement program following [New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy's adoption of amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act and Municipal and County Utilities Authorities Law.](#)

The amendments address community public water systems' obligations for managing lead in drinking water.

**ACCESS THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK'S WATER SERVICE LINE INVENTORY [HERE](#)**

## **Q: WHAT IS BEING DONE ABOUT LEAD SERVICE LINES?**

On July 22, 2021, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy passed amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act and Municipal and County Utilities Authorities Law that address Community Public Water Systems' obligations for managing lead in drinking water. These bills took effect immediately, with new obligations detailing specific requirements around service line inventories and lead service line replacements.

## **Q: WHEN WILL THE VERIFICATION TAKE PLACE?**

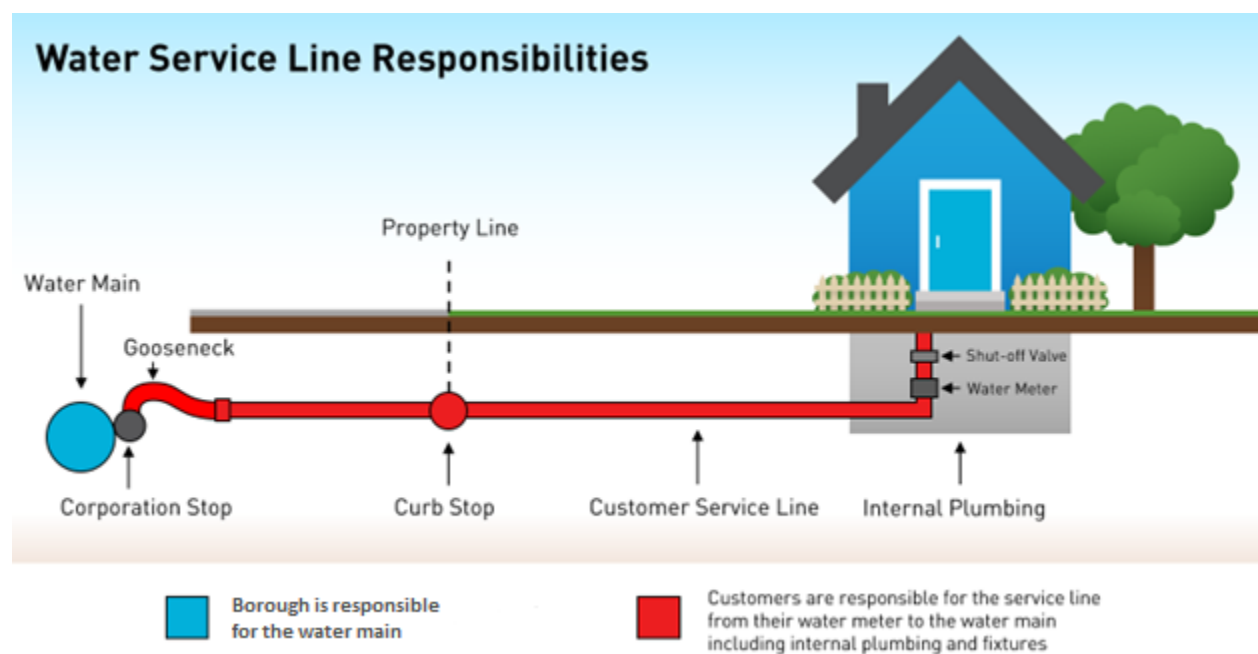
The New Jersey Safe Drinking Water Act amendments required the Borough of Red Bank, as the owner of a community public water system, to submit to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) a digital inventory of all drinking water service line material by January 22, 2022—which will be made public on the [NJDEP's website](#).

The Borough will then notify each resident, property owner, and commercial establishment of a property's service line material if the service line is a known lead or galvanized line. The Borough of Red Bank will work to identify unknown service lines and submit an updated

inventory to NJDEP every July, confirming the pipe material across Red Bank for all service lines.

## Q: WHAT IS A SERVICE LINE?

A service line is an underground pipe that runs from the water main to the property home. The purpose is to deliver water to the taps in the property. In the Borough of Red Bank the customer owns the entire service line from the water main into the household plumbing system.



## Q: WHAT IS A LEAD SERVICE LINE, AND HOW DOES LEAD GET IN MY WATER?

Lead is not present in the water leaving the water treatment plant and there are no lead water mains (e.g., the large water pipes within the water distribution system).

However, decades ago, lead was an industry standard for smaller-diameter, individual water pipes bringing water from the main to your house or indoor plumbing because it was strong, yet malleable enough to bend. If your home was built prior to June 1986, there is a possibility that it contains lead materials—including the service line, the solder used in the bonding fixtures and pipes, and bathroom kitchen fixtures. Lead enters the water when

a chemical reaction known as corrosion occurs in the pipes. It wears away the metal from the pipes and enters the water stream.

## **Q. WHAT CAN I DO IMMEDIATELY TO REDUCE ANY CHANCE OF EXPOSURE TO LEAD IN MY DRINKING WATER?**

### **FLUSH THE WATER.**

If the water from the cold-water faucet has not been used for several hours, such as overnight, let it run for at least 15 to 30 seconds (per NJDEP—when the temperature of the water changes) before using it for drinking, cooking, or preparing beverages.

### **DON'T CONSUME WATER FROM THE HOT WATER FAUCET.**

Always use fresh water from the cold-water tap, as hot water releases more lead from pipes than cold water.

### **DON'T BOIL WATER EXCESSIVELY.**

Excessive boiling may increase the concentration of lead in water due to evaporation.

### **AVOID USING LEAD-BASED COOKWARE.**

Cookware made outside of this country may contain lead, which will contaminate food during cooking.

### **WATER FILTRATION SYSTEMS\*.**

If you purchase a water filtration system, be certain that it is “certified” for lead removal before making the investment. If you choose a water filtration pitcher, ensure it is rated for removing lead.

## **Q. DOES MY PROPERTY HAVE A LEAD SERVICE LINE?**

The Borough of Red Bank developed a borough-wide program to verify pipe material and implement a replacement program for any remaining lead service lines. Renters should contact property owners to determine the status of lead in their system.

## **Q. HOW CAN I TELL IF I HAVE A LEAD SERVICE LINE?**

Lead service lines are generally a dull gray color and are very soft. A qualified plumber can also determine if your home contains lead-based plumbing fixtures.

## **Q. WHAT IS CURRENTLY BEING DONE TO MITIGATE THE POSSIBILITY OF LEAD IN THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK'S DRINKING WATER?**

Customers should be advised that Red Bank's water system is treated under standards set by [NJDEP Water Quality Parameters](#) to prevent lead and copper from leaching into the drinking water by creating a coating on the inner walls of the pipes. This treatment has been established as a safe and effective strategy for water utilities nationwide, and the Borough of Red Bank's water utility also does regular Water Quality Parameter and Lead & Copper testing as per the Lead & Copper Rule, to monitor the treatment's effectiveness.

Ultimately, the best way to identify any risk of exposure to lead in drinking water is to have your water tested. Among its resources on drinking water, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) offers [information about drinking water testing by certified laboratories](#).

## **Q. WHAT IS THE LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM?**

A full lead service line replacement (LSLR) involves elimination of all lead pipe between the water main in the street and the water meter in your house. At present, the Borough of Red Bank has established a Lead Service Line Replacement plan, per amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act and Municipal and County Utilities Authorities Law.

## **Q. WHY IS LEAD IN DRINKING WATER DANGEROUS?**

Since lead is easily absorbed into the blood stream and our bodies cannot distinguish lead from other minerals, it is rapidly assimilated by the body when a person drinks water containing lead. The Environmental Protection Agency has set the maximum contaminant level goal for lead in drinking water at zero because lead is a toxic metal that can be harmful to human health even at low exposure levels. Lead is persistent, and it can bioaccumulate in the body over time.

Young children, infants, and fetuses are particularly vulnerable to lead because the physical and behavioral effects of lead occur at lower exposure levels in children than in adults. A dose of lead that would have little effect on an adult can have a significant effect on a child. In children, low levels of exposure have been linked to damage to the central and peripheral nervous system, learning disabilities, shorter stature, impaired hearing, and impaired formation and function of blood cells.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that public health actions be initiated when the level of lead in a child's blood is 5 micrograms per deciliter (µg/dL) or more. Therefore, such efforts are being made at the federal, state, and municipal level to remove all remaining lead infrastructure from our water systems.

According to the EPA, however, bathing and showering remains safe for you and your children even if lead is present. Human skin does not absorb lead in water.

## **Q. WHAT IS BEING DONE TO IDENTIFY ANY UNKNOWN LEAD SERVICE LINES?**

The Borough of Red Bank will be verifying pipeline material where service lines remain unknown by conducting inspections to determine if it needs to be replaced. You will receive additional details on this plan. Renters should contact property owners to determine the status of lead in their system.

## **Q. WHO WILL PAY FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE LEAD SERVICE LINE?**

As per the Borough of Red Bank Code, the property owner is responsible for the maintenance of their water service line from the water main to the water meter. The current LSLR (lead service line replacement) plan has Red Bank covering the costs of the replacement of known lead services over the next 10 years. Red Bank will review and update that plan annually and will assess costs annually. If property owners wish to replace their service line sooner, they can contact a licensed plumber and do this immediately at their own cost. In November 2021, New Jersey passed additional legislation requiring a property condition disclosure statement to indicate the presence of lead plumbing in residential property.

## **Q. WHAT IS THE EXACT TIMELINE FOR UPDATES ON LEAD SERVICE LINE ASSESSMENT AND REPLACEMENT?**

The NJDEP will henceforth maintain a current inventory of all public water systems in the State, and all changes in said inventory shall be reported to the Administrator each year. The Borough of Red Bank submitted an updated, publicly available digital inventory to NJDEP annually on July 22, 2022. The Borough of Red Bank also submitted a plan on lead service line replacements to the State of New Jersey on July 22, 2022; and that plan had to show replacement of all lead services lines in the system by 2031, at a prescribed rate of at least 10% of known lead service lines per year.

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It remains our goal to continue providing the best water quality, and best customer service experience to our customers. Thank you for your support and understanding in this process as we actively work to remove lead from our system.

**FOR ANY FURTHER CLARIFICATION, PLEASE CONTACT OUR PUBLIC UTILITIES DEPARTMENT AT 732-530-2770.**

**For more information on lead, lead service lines and drinking water, visit:**

- [Introduction to LSLR](#)
- [CDC Lead FAQs](#)
- [Public Education Requirements](#) (Section 1, Part 1 details Required Content of Public Education Materials - pg. 8 )
- [NJ FAQ Schools](#)
- [NJ Lead in Drinking Water Resource Factsheet](#)