LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM (LSLRP)

To reduce exposure to lead in drinking water, the Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW) continues to develop a lead service line replacement program. This program requires full lead service replacement with copper. The utility-owned section of the line is replaced on a planned or emergency basis if:

- The utility-owned section of the line is replaced on a planned or emergency basis.
- A leak or failure is discovered on either the customer-owned or utility-owned section of the service line.
- A disturbance on either the customer or utility-owned section of the line occurs for any other reason (renovation, demolition and rebuild, or other construction work.)

A service line provides water from the water main in the street to the property. The illustration below reflects a typical service line ownership situation.

The water main is installed down the street and the public (utility-owned) service line connects from the water main to the property line. This is the GCWW portion of the water service and is the responsibility of the utility.

The property owner is responsible for the private (customer-owned) service line section from the property line into the house/building. This private service line may be made of lead or other materials containing lead.

GCWW is mobilizing this new program now and work has begun as part of some water main replacement projects.

Greater Cincinnati Water Works has had a program to reduce the risk of lead in drinking water for many years. However, from a public health and safety perspective, it is important to remove the risk of lead that may exist in home plumbing systems.

Is your Service Line LEAD?
A simple way to find out if the material of your service line is lead is to use our Lead Map located on GCWW’s “Lead Awareness” site.

Lead.myGCWW.org

No Internet? No Problem!
Call 651-LEAD (5323) and one of our agents will be glad to assist you with determining the material of your service line.
Do you have a lead service line? GCWW will work with you to replace it – here's how:

1. Receive Notification
2. Sign & Return Agreement
3. GCWW Coordinates & Completes Replacement
4. GCWW issues billing
5. Select payment option
6. Service line Replacement complete!

Lead Service Line Replacement Program: How Does it Work?

GCWW was given the authority by City Council to proceed with establishing a LSLRP in the City of Cincinnati. The following list outlines the details of the program.

1. **GCWW will replace all known public lead service lines in 15 years.**

2. **Property owners are required to replace the private lead service line whenever a lead service line will be disturbed.** GCWW will notify the owner in writing that the private lead service line must be replaced to remove the risk of lead entering the water from the disturbed lead pipe. There are 3 scenarios for this:
   a. **GCWW performs a planned water main replacement project**
   b. An existing lead service line is leaking
   c. A service line will be disturbed for any other reason (renovation, demolition and rebuild or other construction work)

In these three scenarios, GCWW and the property owner must replace their entire respective portions of the lead service line with new copper pipe.

3. **Realizing that it will be costly for customers to replace their portion of the line, GCWW has established a cost-sharing program for customers if owners elect for GCWW contractors to perform the private lead service line replacement.**
   a. GCWW will share the cost of private lead service line replacement only when the work is performed by GCWW or a GCWW contractor. If the owner elects to use its own contractor, GCWW will not participate in cost-sharing.
   b. GCWW will provide a cost-sharing program that pays a maximum amount of $1,500 for each property where GCWW replaces a lead service line.
   c. GCWW will bear the entire cost for public-side replacement.
   d. In all cases, the property owner will be responsible for the private-side LSL replacement costs.

4. **Still realizing that this is a costly endeavor, GCWW is establishing a low income customer assistance program, Help Eliminate Lead Pipes (HELP), to aid in this program.** These are privately donated funds for additional assistance to qualifying low income property owners beyond GCWW cost-sharing.

5. **Finally, this cost-sharing program establishes a payment program option** for customers located within the City of Cincinnati* to pay for the replacement over multiple years.

If a City of Cincinnati property owner elects to have GCWW replace their private LSL:
   a. The property owner may pay all or part of the cost after the work is complete.
   b. For any unpaid balance, the property owner will be assessed semi-annually on their property tax bill over a time period of 5 or 10 years (as selected by the property owner).

*This payment option is available to City of Cincinnati property owners only. Other jurisdictions may offer similar programs for their residents.

For more information Call 651-LEAD (5323) or go to our Lead Awareness site located at: Lead.myGCWW.org
Help us, Help you!

Help us keep our records up-to-date by identifying your private water service line material.

As GCWW continues to implement the Lead Service Line Replacement Program (LSLRP), it is very important to identify the material of your service line and report back to GCWW. If your service line is lead, you will be receiving further information about GCWW’s LSLRP.

If you are not sure how to check your service line material, please visit our website, located at: Lead.myGCWW.org and click on the “Self-report your Service Line” located under the “LEAD MAP Address Lookup” to view a scratch-test video and instructions to report your findings.

If you do not have internet access, please call 513.651.LEAD(5323) and an agent will be glad to assist you.

How to identify a test area

Identify a test area on the service line between the point where it comes into the building and the inlet valve. If the pipe is covered or wrapped, expose a small area of metal. Use the flat edge of a screwdriver or other tool to scratch through any corrosion that may have built up on the outside of the pipe.

Once a test area is identified, test the service line to determine the material

**Lead**

If the scratched area is shiny and silver, your service line is lead. A magnet will not stick to lead.

**Copper**

If the scratched area is copper in color like a penny, your service line is copper. A magnet will not stick to copper.

**Galvanized Steel**

If the scratched area remains a dull gray, your service line is galvanized steel. A magnet will stick to this pipe.
GCWW Customer Assistance Program Needs Your HELP!

This month, the City of Cincinnati and GCWW will be soliciting proposals for a customer assistance program, for replacement of the private-side (customer) lead service line (LSL).

The City of Cincinnati stopped installing LSLs in 1927. The surest way to reduce lead exposure in drinking water is to remove the LSL completely.

Due to the cost of lead service line replacement, the LSLRP includes the implementation of a customer assistance program to assist qualifying low-income property owners with payment of the private-side of the LSL replacement.

For more information
A copy of the RFP is located at the City of Cincinnati’s Division of Purchasing site:
Click on “Business Opportunities”

Lead Service Line Replacement Program Schedule Criteria

In some cases, GCWW will not be able to plan and prioritize their lead service line replacement work. For example, when a leak or failure is discovered on either the customer-owned or utility-owned section of a lead service line, the work will be completed as soon as possible. However, if the replacement is from a planned project, GCWW considers certain criteria to help decide which Cincinnati neighborhood would best be served by the project.

Below, in no particular order, are the considerations GCWW will use when planning lead service line replacement projects:

- Children 6-years and under data from the neighborhood based on US census tract data.
- High blood lead levels in the neighborhood based on Ohio Department of Health data.
- Lead branch density per 100-feet of water main or branches per block, more than 100 per project (public side).
- Other public agency project coordination commitments, such as road improvement projects.
- Houses that have water test results above the lead and copper rule of action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb).
- Other criteria as indicated and related to children exposed to lead.

GCWW's goal is to make Cincinnati lead safe for all neighborhoods, one service line at a time!