

Lead Free DC

Brookland Neighborhood Civic Association
Presentation

March 18, 2025





Agenda

- General Overview of Lead Free DC
- Mechanisms of Lead Exposure
- Overview of Lead Service Line Replacement Process
- Signing Up For a Replacement
- Program Resources
- Q & A



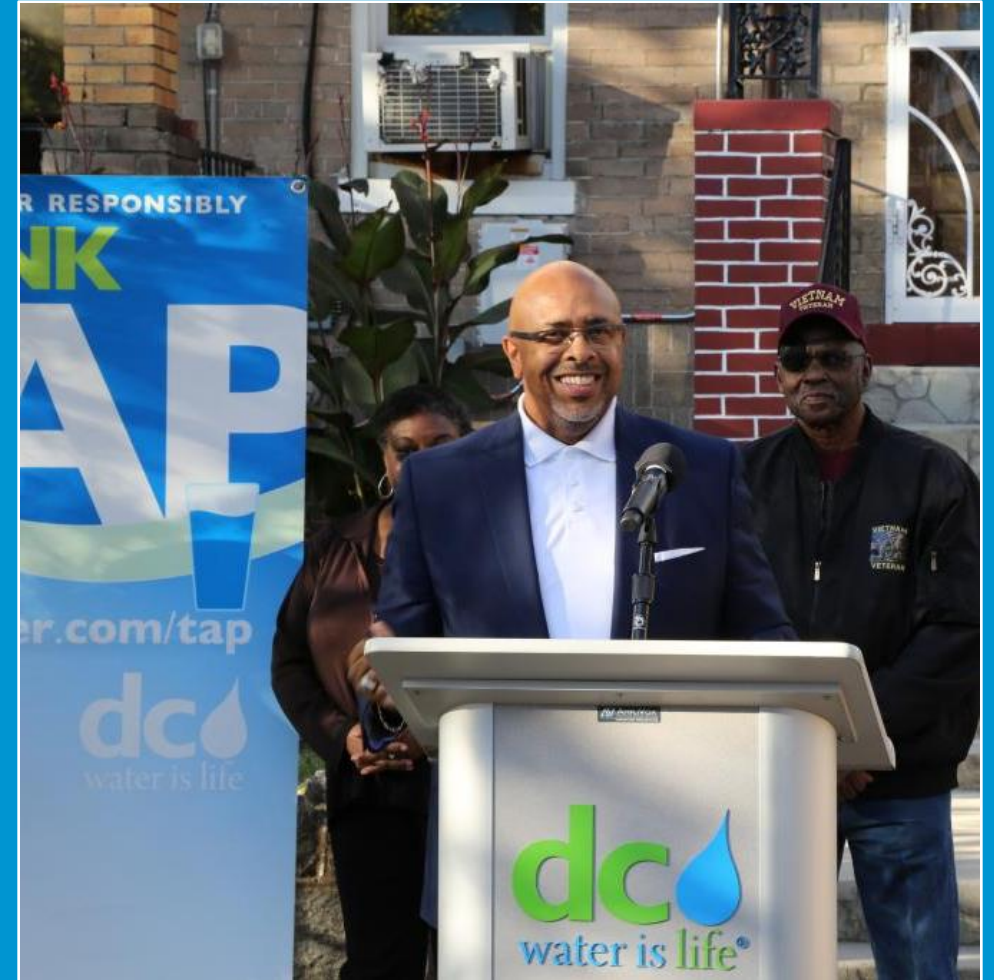
LFDC Progress Updates

LFDC Goal:

- Eliminate all lead 42,000 service lines (LSLs) from the District

Every year, with support from the District, DC Water launches new projects on blocks across the city to:

- Replace known lead service lines
- Verify the material of service lines associated with historic records or missing information





Program Milestones

Program Milestones

- 8,080 lead service lines replaced as of March 17, 2025

Prioritizing Environmental Justice and vulnerable populations

- Replacements prioritized in areas with a high number of lead service lines and vulnerable and historically underserved populations.

Expanding the Lead Free DC outreach team

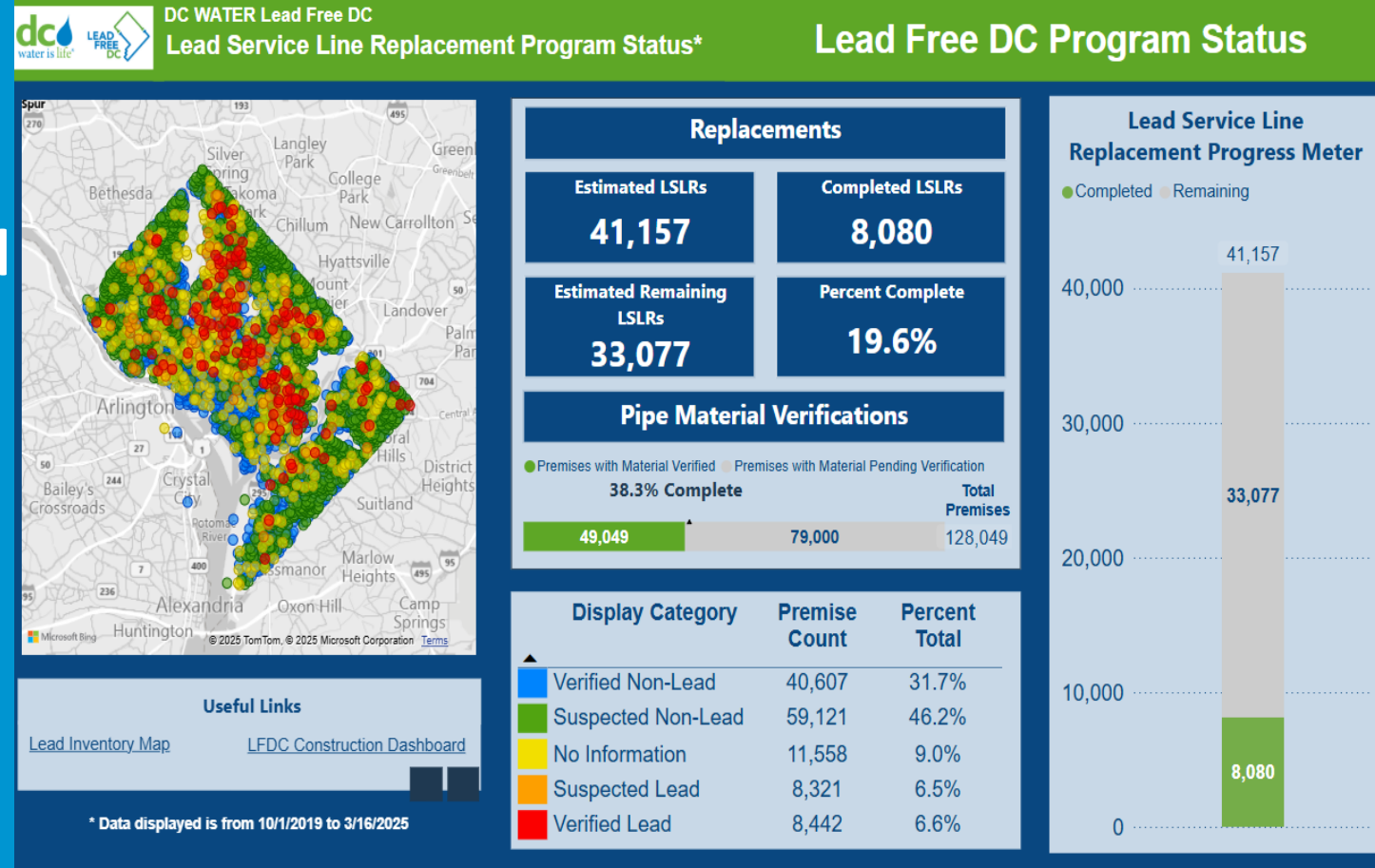
- DC Water Community Activators Program, a workforce development training program supporting LFDC program outreach.
- Cohort II underway with 12 paid trainees from across the District.



What's New: Program Status Dashboard

New Program Status Dashboard demonstrates progress toward 42,000 LSL replacements

- Replacements to date
- Replacements remaining
- Material verification



Dashboard reflects data as of March 17, 2025



.....● **Mechanisms of Lead Exposure**



Who is most vulnerable to lead?

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups.

- Lead is a powerful neurotoxin. There is no safe level of lead
- Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span.
- Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems.
- The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects.
- Adults can have increased risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems.



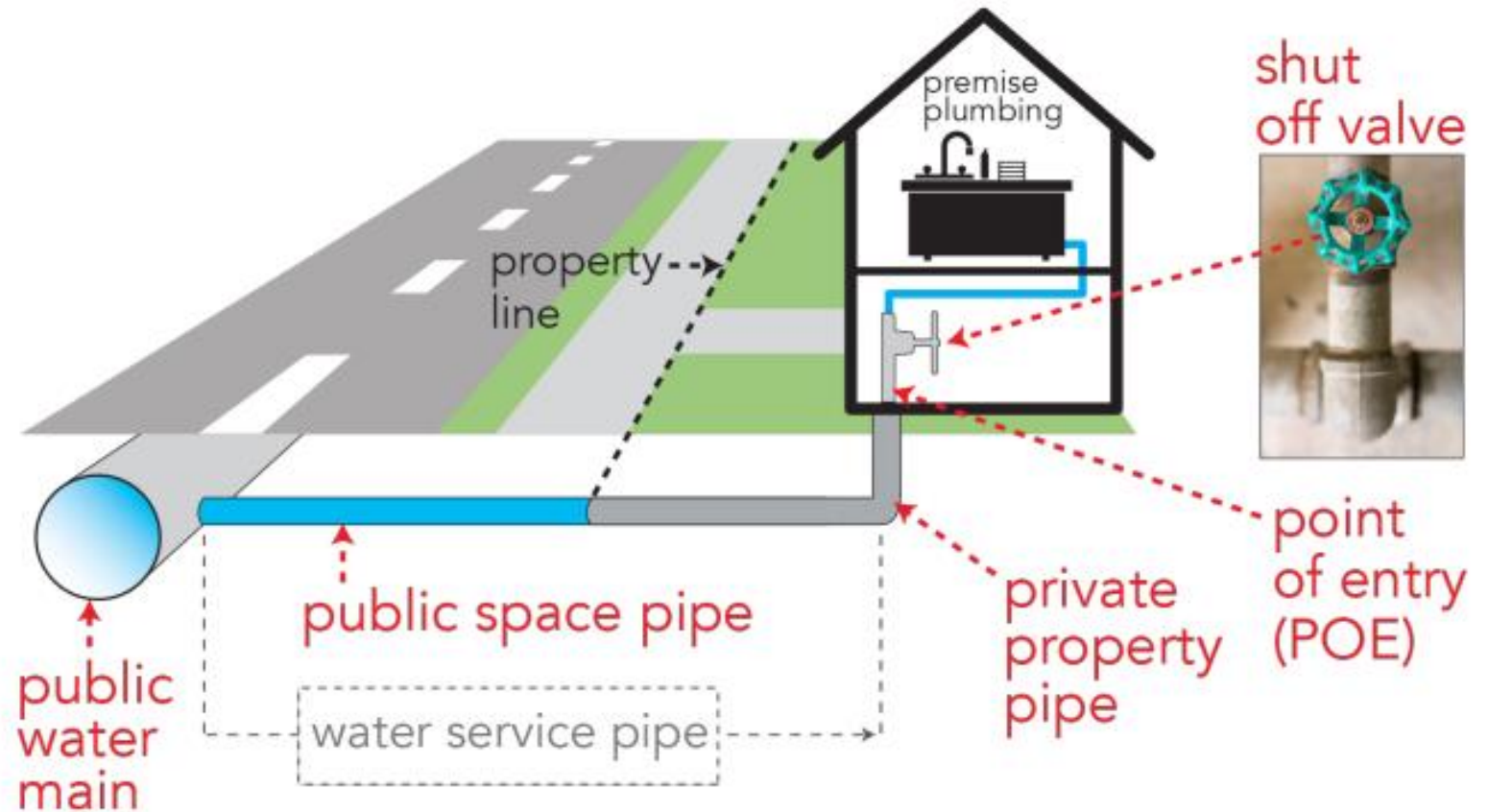


Understanding Service Lines (or Pipes)

Service lines are in the street and on a resident's property. The part of the service line in the street is in public property. The part of the service line located on the resident's property is on private property.

The service line could be lead or be made of lead materials.

DC Water's water mains bring clean and safe drinking water into homes.

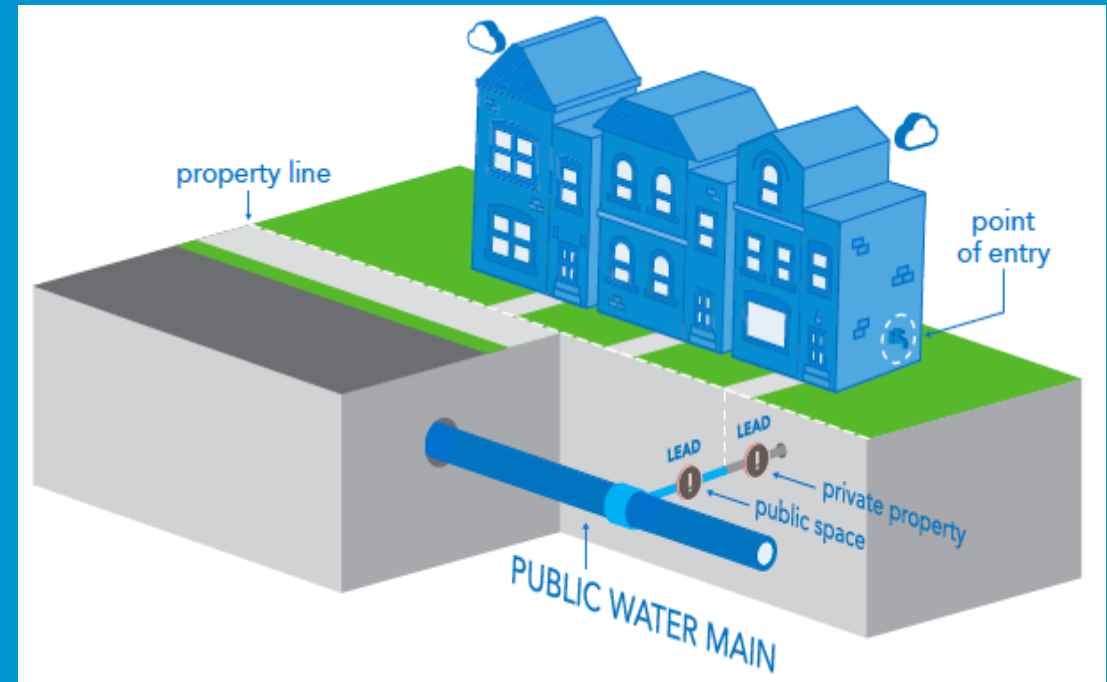


The water service line is the pipe that connects the water supply in the water main to a building (including homes).



Understanding Service Lines (or Pipes)

- Homeowners own the entire service line.
- DC Water is responsible for maintaining the portion of the service line in “public space.”
- DC Water uses ratepayer funds for “public-side” service line replacement and water main work.
- DC Water needs homeowner consent and a separate funding source for “private-side” service line replacement per D.C. Law 22-241.
- Homeowners must complete a Right of Entry Authorization so DC Water can replace their service line





Identifying Service Pipe Material

- Homes that have galvanized pipes and have or had lead service lines are at risk of lead in water from corroded pipes.
- Galvanized iron pipe can accumulate lead that is released from lead service lines.

Lead



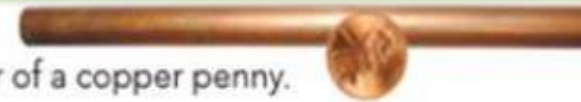
A dull, silver-gray color that is easily scratched with a coin. Use a magnet - strong magnets will not cling to lead pipes.

Galvanized



A dull, silver-gray color. Use a magnet - strong magnets will typically cling to galvanized pipes.

Copper



The color of a copper penny.

Plastic



White, rigid pipe.

Brass



Dark reddish brown to a light silvery yellow color. Older pipes may be corroded and may contain lead.

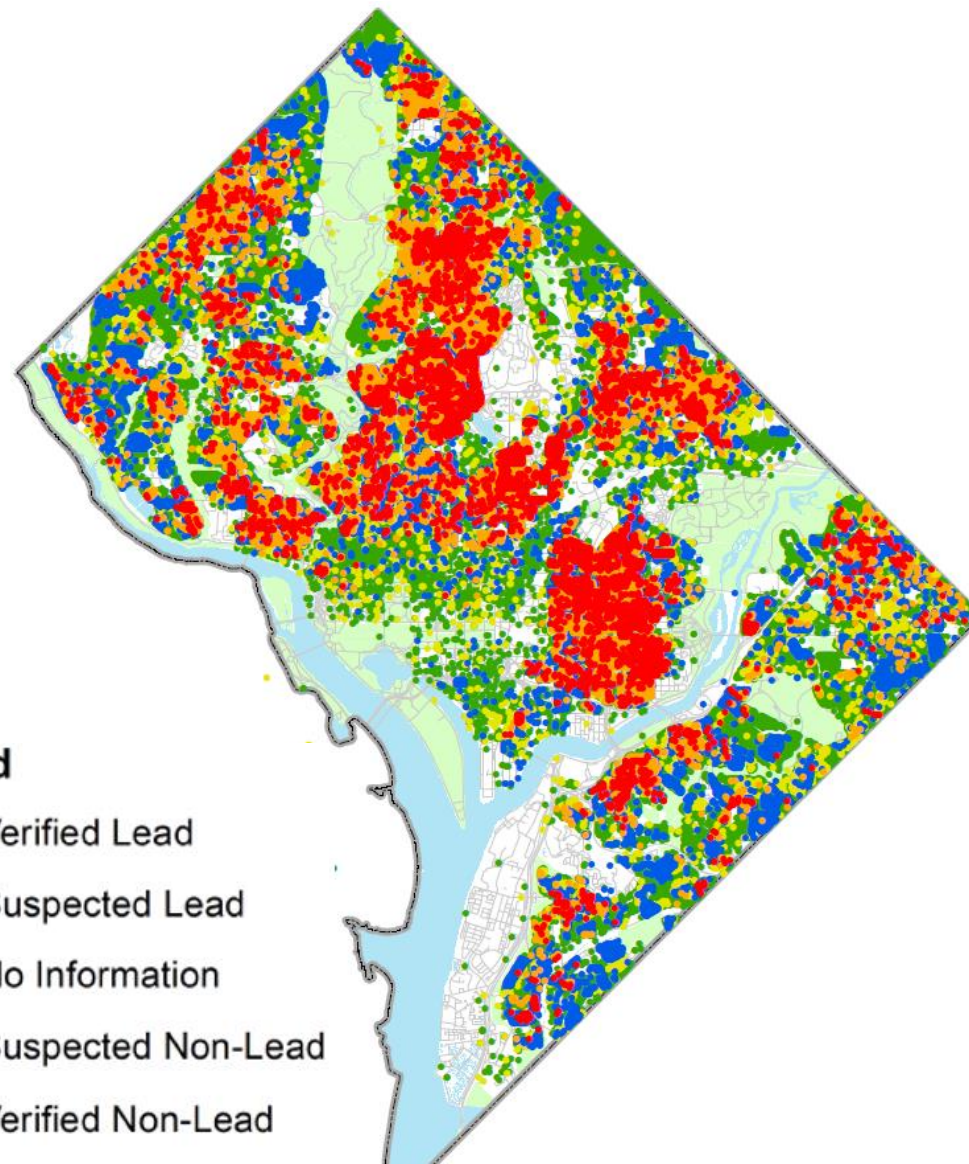
CONTAINS
LEAD

DOES NOT
CONTAIN
LEAD



Inventory Map

- The inventory map helps homeowner's identify what DC Water's records say about service line materials
- If the pipe materials are recorded as verified lead, suspected lead, suspected non lead or no information, it will be confirmed in field.
- Updated inventory map:
- <https://geo.dcwater.com/Lead/>



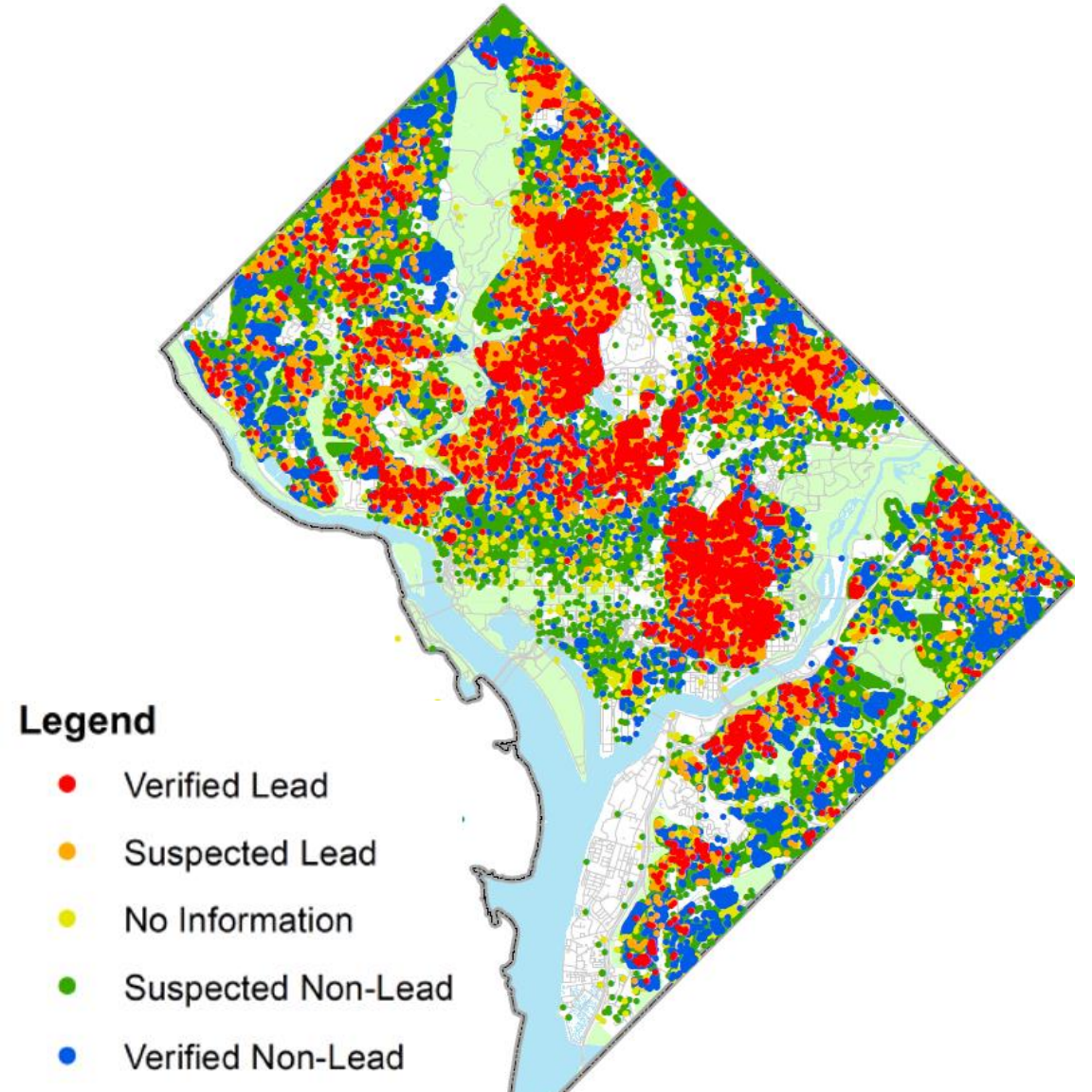
Legend

- Verified Lead
- Suspected Lead
- No Information
- Suspected Non-Lead
- Verified Non-Lead



Service Line Inventory Updated Categories

Category	Definition
Verified Lead	Service line is lead and we are confident in the data source.
Suspected Lead	Service line is lead but we are less confident in the data source.
No Information	DC Water has no information about service line material.
Suspected Non-Lead	Service line is non lead but we are less confident in the data source.
Verified Non-Lead	Service line is non lead and we are confident in the data source.





Construction Dashboard

- Construction Dashboard provides information about pipe materials and the program schedule.
- Customers can find out when the free replacement program is scheduled for their area.
- Construction dashboard:
 - <https://www.dewater.com/lead-free-dc-construction-dashboard>

DC WATER Lead Free DC
Lead Service Replacements (LSR)

Construction Dashboard

Clear All Filters

You must first select an address to see the results

Block Construction Status

- LSR Project Completed on Block
- LSR Project in Progress on Block
- LSR Project Pending on Block
- Contact DCW for Lead Removal Options
- No Lead Services Present on Block

Premise Info:
Please use drop-down to search and select address.

Please Select an Address:
All

Premise Material Status: -
Agreement Status: -
Inventory Public Service Type: -
Inventory Private Service Type: -

Block Name

Program Type: -
Package Number: -

Lead Free DC Block Construction Status

Please make a selection

Contractor Info:

Contractor	Construction Start Date	Construction End Date	Contractor E-mail	Contractor Phone

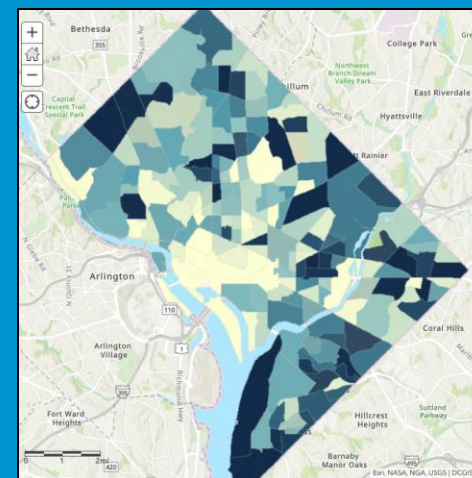
Disclaimer
Construction Dashboard displays the LFDC Construction Status for the entire block, individual construction status for premises may vary. Construction Dashboard only displays premises eligible for the Lead Free DC Program. For additional information call 202-787-4044 or email lead@dcwater.com.

Prepared by LFG Version Number 1.0 Program Information as of: 6/29/2023 4:15:47 PM



Construction Prioritization

- Data from the service line inventory, vulnerable populations data, and socio-economic data is used to calculate block scores.
- Scores are based on the value of five indicators and their weights
 - Service Line Material
 - Race
 - Household Income
 - Children under 5
 - Blood Level Indicator
- Blocks with higher scores are prioritized before blocks with lower scores.



Density of Children in Washington, DC



.....● **Overview Lead Service Line Replacement Process**



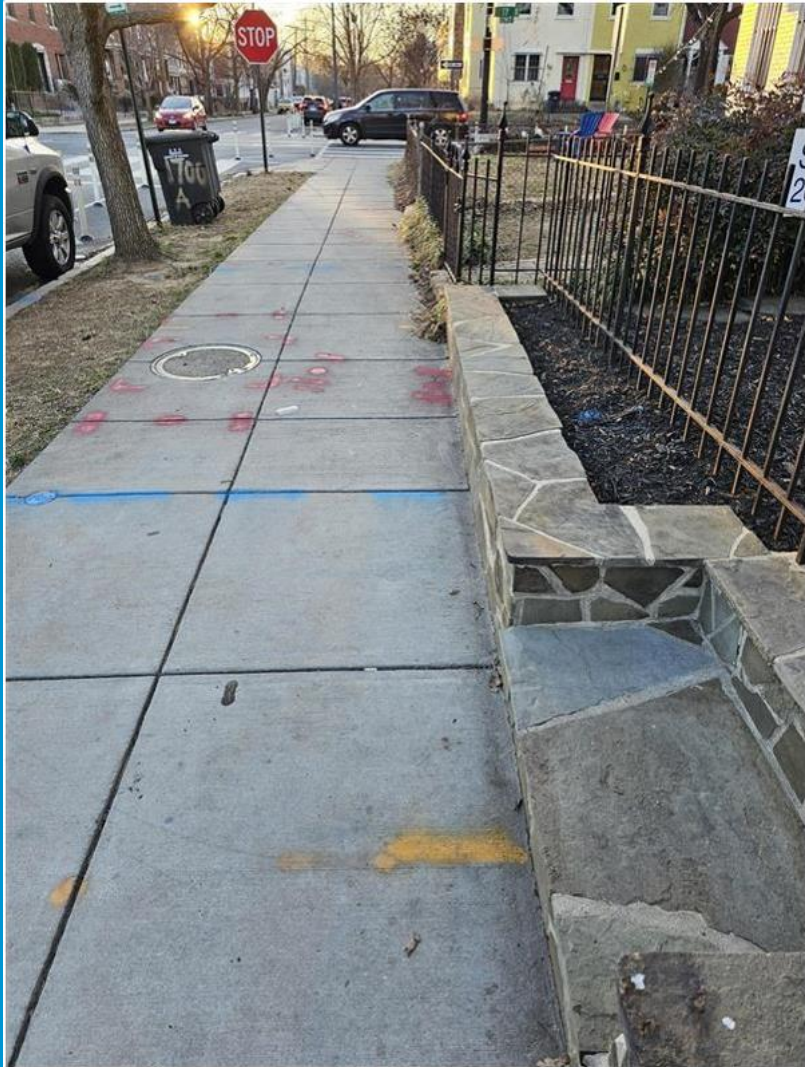
Construction and Restoration

**New
Construction
Video**





BEFORE the Service Line Replacement



- DC Water will contact the customer to schedule a day for the replacement. They need to be home during the work.
- Customers should prepare to have water shut off for about 8 hours. They will get a reminder 2 days in advance.
- Customers should have enough stored water for cooking and drinking for one day.
- Customers should be aware they DC Water construction workers will need access to the basement or crawl space where the new service line connects to the indoor plumbing and shutoff valve.



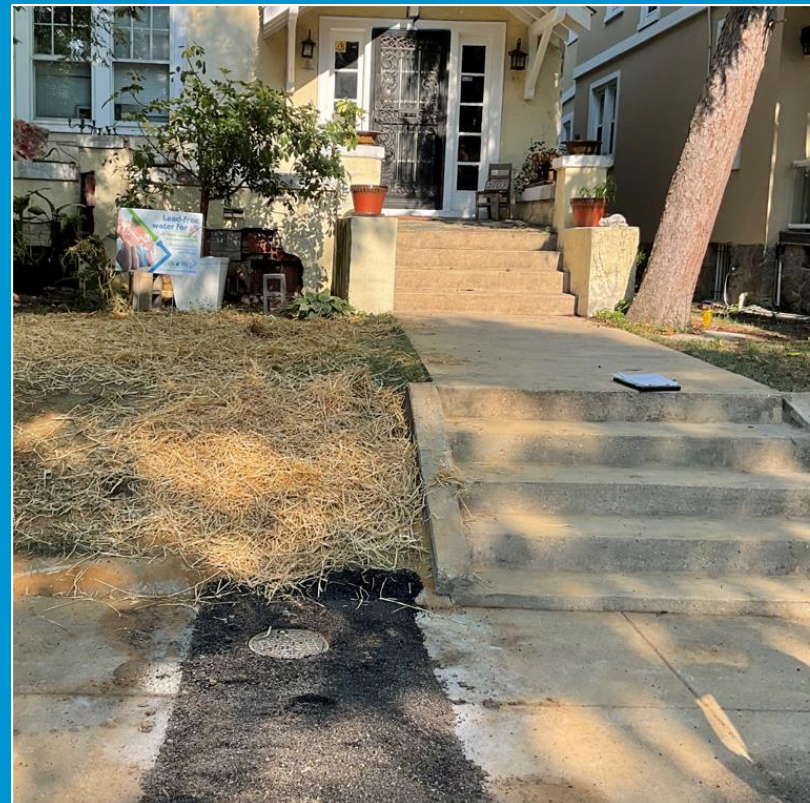
DURING the Service Line Replacement



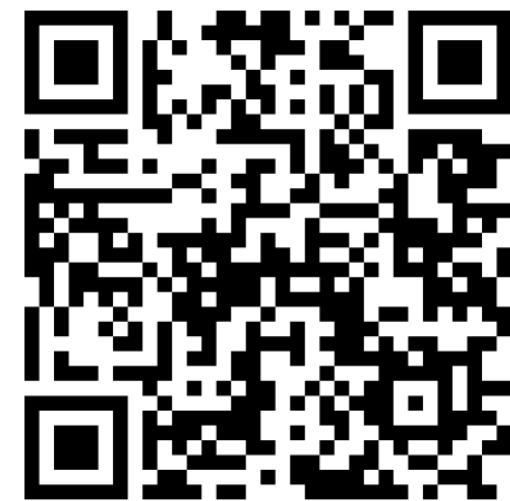
- Temporary Traffic Interruptions: Construction will require closure of sidewalks and streets for a short time
- Digging in Front of a Home: Two holes will be made in the front of each home. Contractors will refill all the holes before the end of their work day.
- Access to Home Plumbing: Contractors will require access to your basement or crawl space, where they will connect the new service line to the home's plumbing
- Cleaning your indoor plumbing: After construction, the contractor will open up an outside faucet and run clean water through the pipes to remove possible pipe particles and other sediment from indoor plumbing.



AFTER the Service Line Replacement



**Post
Construction
Video**



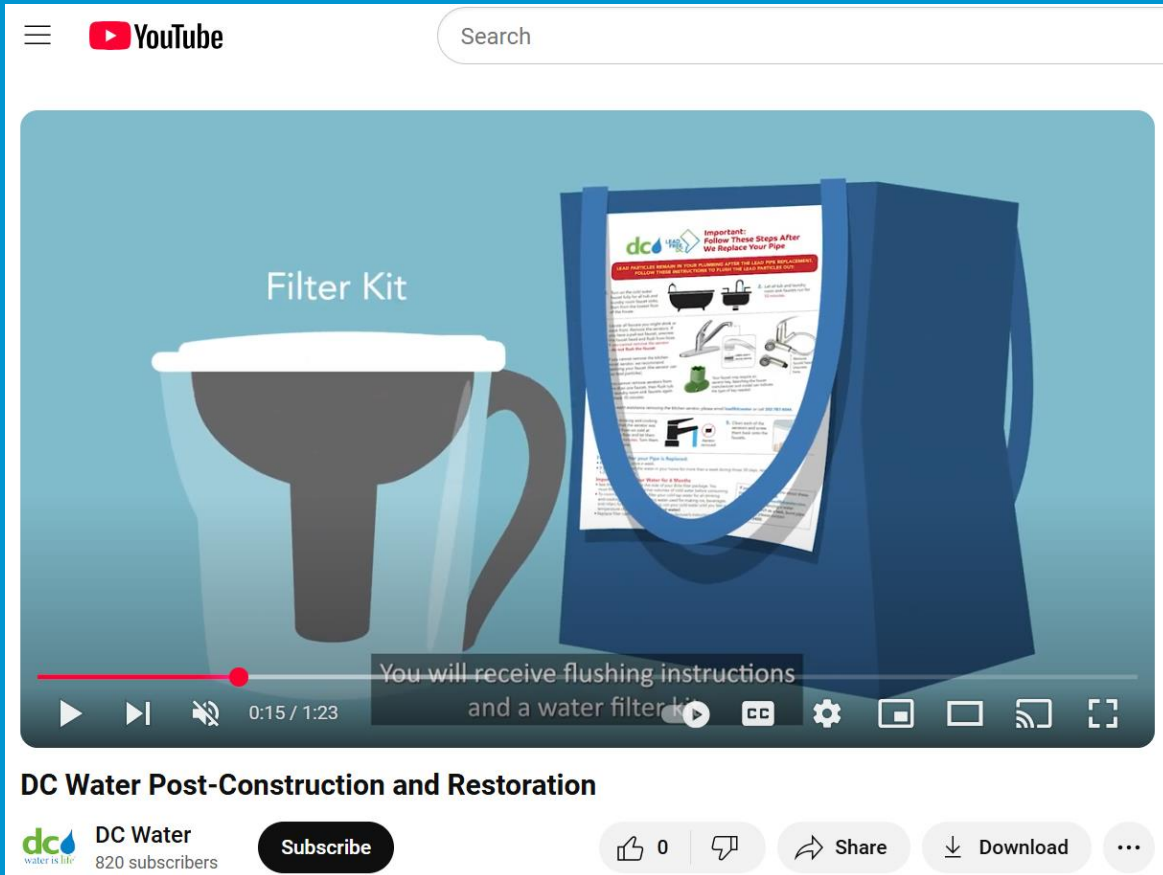
Restoring the Work Area: DC Water contractors will return later to restore the roadway, sidewalk, and lawn. Work is scheduled weather permitting.



AFTER the Service Line Replacement

Flushing Plumbing Pipes: After a lead pipe replacement, a temporary increase in lead will likely occur in household tap water, due to lead particles and sediment that may settle in the pipe during construction. The contractor will provide customers with instructions about how to run water through all of the plumbing in their home to remove possible lead particles and other sediment, which is a process called “flushing.”

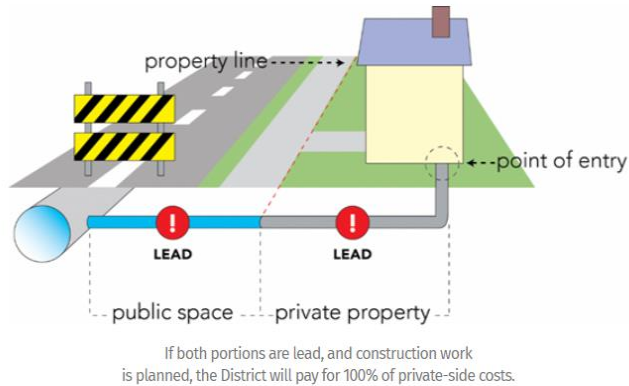
Filters: The contractor provides customers with a water pitcher with a 6-month supply of filters and replacement cartridges to minimize exposure to lead.





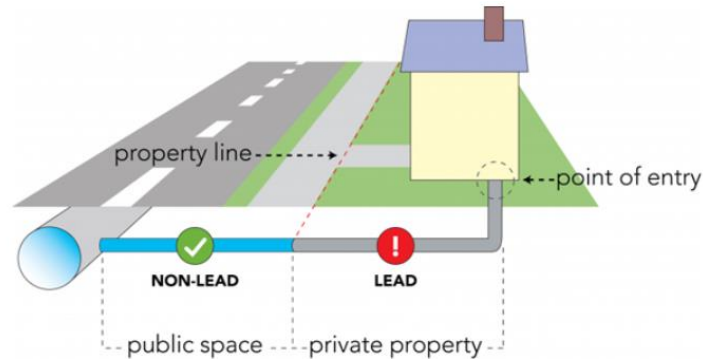
Lead Service Line Replacement Programs

Capital Improvement Project and Emergency Repair Replacement (CIPERR)



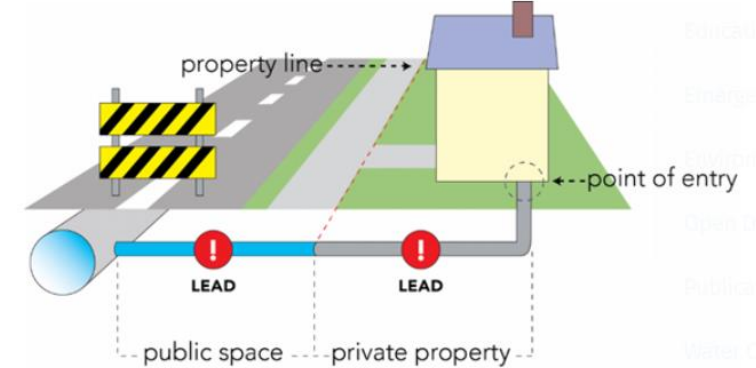
- Free replacements during Capital Improvement Projects for Water main replacements
- Dedicated lead service line contracts
- Free replacements during emergency projects

Lead Pipe Replacement Assistance Program (LPRAP)



- Only the portion of the water service line on private property is lead (the public portion is non-lead).
- The District of Columbia will pay for discounted replacements. Each Homeowner can receive a 100% discount, regardless of income or household size.

Voluntary Full Replacement Program (VFRP)



- Both the public and private portions of the water service line are lead and NO capital improvement projects are planned for the neighborhood
- DC Water will pay for all work in public space and coordinate work so both portions are replaced at the same time.
- The Homeowner pays for work on private property.

[Environment](#)
[Energy](#)
[Government](#)
[Open Data Portal](#)
[Publication](#)
[Water Quality](#)



.....● **Signing up for a Replacement**



Pre Construction and Signing Up

**Pre-
Construction
Sign Up Video**





Lead Free DC Needs Your Help



Questions or need assistance? Contact:
(202) 787-4044 or lead@dcwater.com

David L. Gadis, Chief Executive Officer

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY | 1385 CANAL STREET, SE | WASHINGTON, DC 20003

RIGHT OF ENTRY AUTHORIZATION TO REPLACE WATER PIPE ON MY PROPERTY FOR FREE

Please complete all required fields or the Authorization Form will not be accepted.

Lead in water from lead or lead containing water pipes can be harmful to you and your family and/or residents. DC Water wants to replace lead water pipes because it is a step in lowering your and your family's and/or resident(s) risks of lead exposure, but we need your consent. This Right of Entry Authorization means you agree to allow DC Water and our Contractor to enter your private property to replace your lead water pipes with new copper water pipes for **Free, at No Cost to you**. This Authorization also means you agree to tell DC Water about any **hidden hazards** you know about on your private property that could prevent them from doing the work or harm the people replacing your pipes. **Please Note:** We also recommend you work with a licensed plumber to identify any other sources of lead pipes inside your building and consider removing them as well.

This is what DC Water's Contractor will do (See attached diagram):

1. Turn off the water service to your building for about eight (8) hours;
2. Dig down near the District water main, meter, and at property line and remove/abandon your lead water pipe from the water main in the street, through your building wall or floor, to the pipe connection in your building;
3. Install a new **copper water pipe** from the District water main in street to your building, through the wall where the pipe comes in and connected to the water pipe in your building; and
4. Turn on water, fill holes made, restore area, and flush water from the outside hose connection, if possible.

This is what you should expect:

1. **Contractor will replace the lead water pipe with a copper water pipe at your private property at No Cost to you.** The workers will enter your private property and your building to do the replacement. They will first dig a hole to confirm the material of the water pipe near the property line. Once confirmed, they will follow the steps above, likely on a separate day. They will take photos and video before, during, and after installation.
2. **Contractor will try to leave your private property as close to how it was found or better.** Contractor may need to remove drywall, tiles, walls, fences, shrubs, sidewalks, driveways, stones, sod, flowers, plants or other permanent things on your property. Contractor will clean the interior work areas and do temporary and permanent restoration, that may include, if impacted: installing access panel(s); repairing sheet rock, drywall; spackling; prime and finish painting to match the original color; and resetting and replacing existing tile and cabinetry. The Contractor will clean the exterior work areas and do temporary and permanent restoration, that may include, if impacted: replacing brick, concrete, granite or asphalt curbs, sidewalk, pavement, driveway and retaining wall areas and overlay; and seeding, sodding, and plant replacement. The permanent restoration work will be scheduled at a different time. Contractor will try to avoid trees, shrubs, living plant(s) when possible, but are not responsible for any harm to grass, plants, etc. during the replacement process. DC Water and the Contractors cannot and will not help you move items on your property.
3. **DC Water may not perform this work if:** (1) there are **hidden hazards** that prevent the workers from replacing the pipe; (2) someone else owns the property and the owner **does not agree** to sign this Authorization; (3) You or an authorized person **do not allow** the Contractor to enter your property on the scheduled date; or (4) You or an authorized person are **not home** at the scheduled date and time and fail to reschedule the work.
4. **DC Water will provide a water pitcher that lasts 6 months to you or residents of your property to use after the replacement and instructions for you to follow for flushing your faucets to remove any lead particles.**

dcwater.com

DC Water must have a resident's permission to replace the service line on their private property. **Here's how you can help:**

- Encourage homeowners to sign and return Right of Entry Authorization.
- Be on the lookout for our door-to-door canvasser, who can talk to homeowners about Lead Free DC.
- Encourage residents in your community to visit dcwater.com/lead for more information
- Spread the word! This is a citywide effort.





Public Outreach & Partnerships



- Ensure the public is aware of health effects of lead
- Connect with key partners and community-based organizations

Continue Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANCs) and Civic Association engagement and presentations

Attend broad range of community events
Expand public information campaign and canvassing

LEAD FREE DC

Our records indicate that you have a lead service line on private property, and that you qualify for a new program that offers free and discounted replacements.

In many older cities like D.C., homes built before the 1980's likely have a lead service line—the pipe that connects the city water supply to your household plumbing.

For decades DC Water has replaced some of these lead pipes each year. At some homes, the portion in public space was replaced with copper, but lead pipe remains on private property.



Ways to Engage Lead Free DC

1. Reach out to lead@dcwater.com, call our lead hotline **(202) 787-4044**, or check dcwater.com/leadmap to determine if you have a lead pipe and how to replace it.
2. Request presentations for your Civic organization, or community by reaching out to **Dee Smith** dee.smith@dcwater.com **202-787-4044**.



Program Resources

dcwater.com/lead

Inventory Map:

dcwater.com/leadmap

Construction Dashboard:

dcwater.com/construction-dashboard

Service Line Materials Data Dashboard:

dcwater.com/service-line-materials-dashboard

Historical Replacement Data (2012-2024):

dcwater.com/historical-lslr-replacement-data

Health effects of lead in drinking water:

dcwater.com/health-effects-exposure-lead-drinking-water

Information about testing your water for lead:

- Request form: leadtesting.dewater.com/
- Email for questions: leadtest@dcwater.com

Program FAQs:

dcwater.com/LeadFAQs

Lead Free DC YouTube Videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzv1Jnjh6RLAMBBbrd-IF0WUuGEerEGoB>



Q&A



Thank You