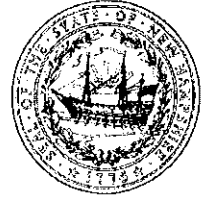




The State of New Hampshire  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**



**Robert R. Scott, Commissioner**

November 2023

RE: USEPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revision (LCRR)  
Drinking Water System Lead Service Line Inventory and Replacement (LSLI/R) Plan

Dear Homeowner:

This letter is to notify you of upcoming activities your drinking water system will be performing to comply with the federal Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) set forth by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), specifically the Lead Service Line Inventory and Replacement Plan (LSLI/R) requirement of LCRR.

LCRR requires all state-regulated community and non-transient non-community drinking water systems inventory their drinking water system service lines. The goal of LSLI/R is to identify and replace all drinking water service lines comprised of lead and galvanized steel downstream of lead. Lead can leach into drinking water from corroded pipes, fixtures and solder holding pipes together. Lead can cause serious health issues, especially for children and infants.

A representative from your drinking water system may reach out and request access to your home and/or ask for information to confirm the material of your service line.

If you would like to identify your service line material yourself, please visit the NHDES website and fill out the [Protect Your Tap: 10-Minute Lead Test](#) and share your results with your water system.

For more information, please visit [Lead and Copper | NH Department of Environmental Services](#).

Thank you,

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Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau  
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[DWLead@des.nh.gov](mailto:DWLead@des.nh.gov)  
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Enclosures    Frequently Asked Questions  
                    EPA infographic



## **Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Homeowners**

### **What is the Lead and Copper Rule Revision (LCRR)?**

LCRR is a federal drinking water rule implemented by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) in December of 2021. This rule revises, updates and improves upon the original Lead and Copper Rule of 1991. The revision requires all community (CWS) and non-transient non-community (NTNC) water systems to prepare and submit a materials inventory of all service lines in the drinking water system, along with changes in water sampling protocols, notifications, and corrosion control requirements.

### **What is the goal of the Lead Service Line Inventory (LSLI)?**

The goal of the lead service line inventory (LSLI) is to identify and replace all service lines made of lead and any galvanized steel downstream of lead materials that can leach lead into the drinking water. LCRR requires CWS and NTNC water systems throughout the country to be proactive about mitigating the exposure to the adverse effects of lead in drinking water. All unknown service line materials are assumed to be lead until proven otherwise to prevent any possible lead leaching into the drinking water from the service line. Although lead rarely occurs naturally in New Hampshire's drinking water sources, it can be found in drinking water due to the wearing away of piping, plumbing fixtures or the solder that connects those pipes.

### **What are the dangers of lead?**

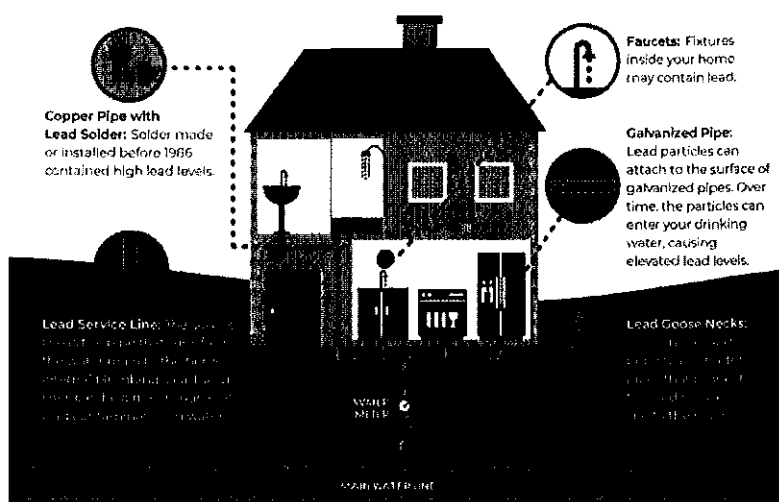
Lead is a naturally occurring element that is found in small amounts in Earth's crust. It can also be found in drinking water through the wearing away of piping, plumbing fixtures and the solder that connects those pipes. Lead can be harmful to humans and animals, causing high blood pressure or nervous system disorders. Children under the age of 6, including unborn babies, are the most at risk because their growing bodies absorb more lead than adults' bodies, in addition to their brains and nervous systems being more sensitive to lead's damaging effects. Studies continue to show that even low blood lead levels can negatively impact cognitive abilities, speech and language development, hearing, visual-spatial skills, attention, emotional regulation, and motor skills.

### **How does this affect me?**

The service line coming into the home could be made from a material that can leach lead into drinking water. It is important for homeowners to assist the water system in identifying service line materials. A representative from the drinking water system may require access to the home or ask that the homeowner inspect the service line in the basement to properly identify the service line material. If the service line has been replaced or worked on in recent years, please inform your water system. If your service line is confirmed as being lead or another material that can leach lead into the water, it will need to be replaced. The cost of the replacement may vary. For more information on replacement of service please, please contact your water system.

### What is a service line?

A service line is the section of pipe that runs under the house to supply water. It connects to the water main in the street and usually enters your house in your basement. Depending on the water system, most service lines have split ownership, meaning the water system owns a portion of the service line, and the homeowner owns a portion. If a lead service line is discovered, it is essential that the entire service line be replaced from the water main to the building, or lead will continue to leach into the drinking water.



### What is my water system required to do now?

All CWS and NTNC water systems in New Hampshire are required to submit an inventory of the service lines to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) by October 16, 2024. Even if all water lines in the drinking water system are non-lead, your water system still needs to confirm their materials and submit the inventory to NHDES. Your water system may require access to the home or information about your service line to properly inventory the portion of the service line that you may own.

### More information

For more information on NHDES efforts to assist drinking water systems comply with USEPA's LCRR please visit [NHDES LCRR webpage](#). For more information on Lead in Drinking Water please visit NHDES' [Lead in Drinking Water webpage](#).

**Contact your Public Water System personnel for more information.**



CONCERNED ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER?

# Sources of LEAD in Drinking Water



**Copper Pipe with Lead Solder:** Solder made or installed before 1986 contained high lead levels.



**Faucets:** Fixtures inside your home may contain lead.



**Galvanized Pipe:** Lead particles can attach to the surface of galvanized pipes. Over time, the particles can enter your drinking water, causing elevated lead levels.

**Lead Service Line:** The service line is the pipe that runs from the water main to the home's internal plumbing. Lead service lines can be a major source of lead contamination in water.



WATER METER

MAIN WATER LINE

**Lead Goose Necks:** Goose necks and pigtails are shorter pipes that connect the lead service line to the main.

## Reduce Your Exposure To Lead



Use only cold water for drinking, cooking and making baby formula. *Boiling water does not remove lead from water.*



Regularly clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator).



Consider using a water filter certified to remove lead and know when it's time to replace the filter.



Before drinking, flush your pipes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes.

To find out for certain if you have lead in drinking water, have your water tested.

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## Identify Other Lead Sources In Your Home

Lead in homes can also come from sources other than water. If you live in a home built before 1978, you may want to have your paint tested for lead. Consider contacting your doctor to have your children tested if you are concerned about lead exposure.



For more information, visit: [epa.gov/safewater](http://epa.gov/safewater)