



In our community, some of the pipes that connect older homes to the PW water main are made from lead. Lead service lines are a health concern because they can be a source of lead in tap water. Even if you do not have a lead service line, plumbing fixtures such as faucets, valves, brass pipes and pipe solder can contain small amounts of lead.

Does your home have lead service?

Of Providence Water's 76,500 service connections, 12,300 have a lead service from the utility. Please call us to see if your address has lead service.

There are several things you can do on your own including checking the section of water line that comes into your basement for lead as well as older plumbing fixtures in your home.

Providence Water customers can pick up a free lead test kit at our customer service location at 125 Dupont Drive in Providence to test their drinking water. For more information on having your water tested, please call (401) 521-6303.

Steps you can take to help protect you and your family from exposure to lead in tap water.

Replace your private-side lead service line. Providence Water is offering a 3-year 0% interest loan program for private-side lead service line replacements.

Run the cold water tap until it gets noticeably colder and then for an additional minute (usually at least 3-5 minutes in all) before using for drinking and cooking – particularly after long periods of time when water has not been used.

Always use cold water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula.

Do not boil water to remove lead. Boiling water will not reduce lead.

Periodically remove and clean the faucet screen/aerator.

Consider purchasing a filter that is NSF 53 certified for lead removal.

Work with Providence Water and your contractor to replace your home's lead pipes and fixtures.

What is being done?

The drinking water that leaves the treatment plant in Scituate and journeys through the Providence Water distribution system has no detectable levels of lead.

Providence Water has made changes to the water treatment process to make the water less corrosive in an effort to reduce lead levels in some homes.

Many projects are under way, including a formal unidirectional water main flushing program, several water main cleaning and lining projects and an aggressive cast iron water main replacement program. All are being utilized to help reduce lead levels to our customers.