

AYER WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

Lead Service Line Inventory & Replacement Plan Project



WHY IS LEAD A HEALTH CONCERN?

Lead can be found in all parts of our environment. Much of our exposure comes from human activities including past use of leaded gasoline, some types of industry, and past use of lead-based paint in homes. It is a toxic metal that can be harmful to human health when ingested, especially for children, even at low exposure levels. Federal and state regulatory standards have helped to reduce the amount of lead in air, drinking water, soil, consumer products, food, and occupational settings. Some older homes may still contain lead. Learn more: www.epa.gov/lead/learn-about-lead

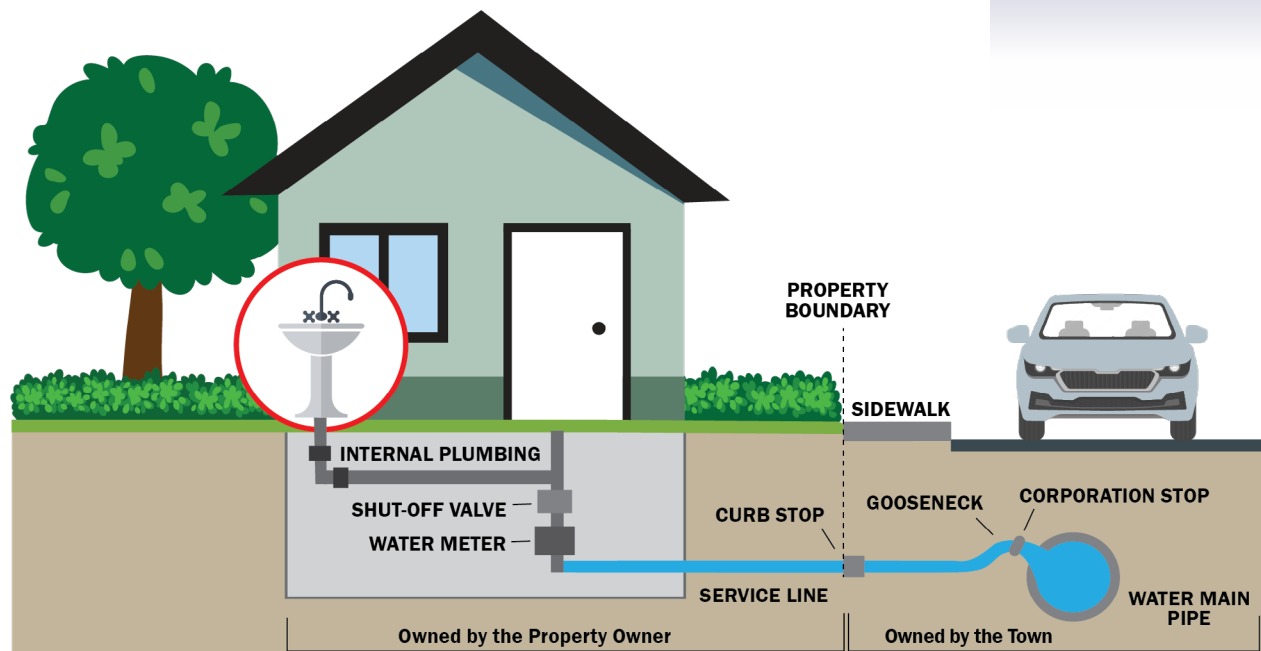
WHAT ABOUT LEAD IN DRINKING WATER?

The water flowing from Ayer's wells, water treatment plants, and street mains **does not contain measurable levels of lead**. However, lead can potentially get into your drinking water from the service line between the main and your home or from the plumbing materials inside your home. If the pipes and plumbing contain lead, lead may leach into water that sits in these pipes for several hours. While Ayer's lead testing program meets all current MassDEP requirements for lead in drinking water, new EPA regulations aim to further reduce exposure to lead. Read more about lead in drinking water here: tinyurl.com/43mmyd5p

WHAT IS A SERVICE LINE?

The service line is usually in two parts: One part is owned by the Town, which is the part from the street water main to the curb stop. The second part is owned by the property owner and runs from the curb line into the basement, ending at the water meter. The service line could be made of plastic, copper, steel or lead. Lead water pipes were banned in 1986, so older properties are more likely to have lead lines.

The Town of Ayer is continuing to make proactive improvements to the water system. This project is another example of these ongoing efforts, and is being funded by a \$130,000 grant from the MassDEP and Clean Water Trust.



WHAT IS THE LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY & REPLACEMENT PLAN PROJECT?

During 2023-2024, Ayer is undertaking the **Lead Service Line Inventory & Replacement Plan Project** to identify and map any remaining lead service lines – both the Town-owned and customer-owned portions. Once the inventory and mapping are completed, Ayer will develop a plan to replace the Town-owned portion and to help customers replace any privately owned service lines. Removing lead service lines reduces the risk of exposure to lead in drinking water.

HOW WILL THE LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY WORK?

The Town has documented a partial inventory of Town-owned service lines, with customer-side documentation currently being incomplete. To develop a customer-side inventory, the Town will conduct basement inspections at representative locations to inspect the water meter connection. The Town will coordinate with various property owners to confirm a specific date and time for the inspection.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!



You can help the DPW with the inventory. The Town will inspect a representative subset and use statistics to identify areas of high likelihood of lead. You can help by checking your service line and reporting the result back to us with MassDEP's LSLI Web App. Scan the QR code with your phone to find out how!

WHAT ELSE IS AYER DOING TO REDUCE THE RISKS OF LEAD IN WATER?

- Ayer DPW maintains a pH level in the water that helps to prevent corrosion of pipes and reduce the risk of lead leaching from household plumbing.
- In addition to pH adjustment, the Town recently began taking additional precautions against corrosion by adding zinc orthophosphate at the treatment facilities.
- Ayer does not have any lead water mains. The Town is proactively removing the Town-owned portions of lead service lines during water main construction projects and replacing them with copper.

HOW CAN I HELP REDUCE MY EXPOSURE TO LEAD IN DRINKING WATER?

The following actions can help reduce your exposure to lead:



Run your tap to flush your pipes before using water for drinking or cooking.



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



Clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator) regularly.



Use an NSF-certified pitcher or faucet filter and be sure to replace the filter according to product instructions. Learn more at: tinyurl.com/yc34wf5b

For more information about reducing your exposure to lead, see the EPA links on the right.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?



Check out the following resources related to lead in drinking water:

- EPA's Basic Information About Lead in Drinking Water: tinyurl.com/4bvt4vey
- Identify Lead in Service Line Material: tinyurl.com/5n73564f
- Protect Your Family From Sources of Lead: tinyurl.com/mvf88ahr

ABOUT LEAD WATER TESTING

To find out for certain if you have lead in your drinking water, have your water tested by a MassDEP-certified lab.

Learn more here:

tinyurl.com/myb6jw9cx

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

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For more information, visit:

www.ayer.ma.us/water or scan the QR code with your phone.

