



City of Sarnia

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: May 8, 2019

RELEASE DATE: Immediate

FROM: Mike Berkvens, Director of Engineering

SUBJECT: Lead Reduction Program

The Engineering Department is launching a Lead Reduction program. Phase 1 of the program will be a lead verification visit to homes within the Lead Zone. These will begin May 14, 2019.

The “Lead Zone” is bounded by Murphy Road and the St. Clair River (east to west) and Highway 402 to St. Andrew St (north to south) see Figure 1. These homes are typically built in the mid-1950’s and are suspected to have lead service lines underground and possibly lead plumbing within the house.

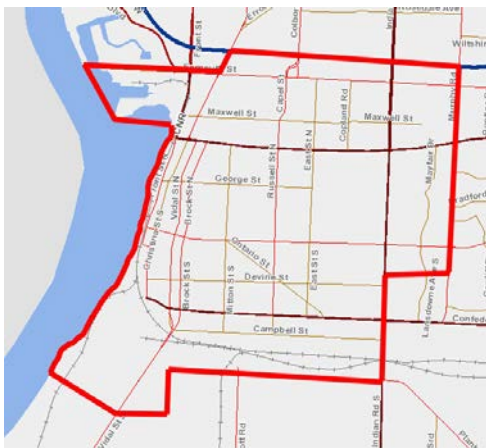


Figure 1: The Lead Zone

Qualified City employees with, proper City ID, will visit homes by pre-arranged appointments time for a lead verification visit. There is no cost to homeowners for this visit.

Lead in Drinking Water

Sarnia's water contains little to no traces of lead once it leaves the water treatment plant. Lead gets into your drinking water by:

1. Lead service lines from the water main to your home, both private and publicly owned
2. Internal plumbing lines
3. Solder containing lead
4. Fixtures such as taps

Effects of Lead in Drinking Water

Elevated lead exposure can pose a threat to the vulnerable public, specifically to children under six years old, pregnant women, women who are planning a pregnancy and the elderly. For more information about the health risks of lead in drinking water please visit Lambton Public Health's website: <https://lambtonhealth.on.ca/health-information/safe-water/drinking-water/lead-in-drinking-water>.

Options to Eliminate Lead in Drinking Water

There are two options to eliminate the amount of lead in your drinking water. The first way is a temporary fix, to purchase a filter. Secondly, the only permanent way to eliminate lead in drinking water is to replace lead service lines. Water service lines branch off from the municipal watermain under the street and connect to the interior plumbing of your home. The City of Sarnia is responsible for the water service lines from the watermain to the property line. The homeowner is responsible for the internal plumbing and service lines from the home to the property line.

Homeowner Support Programs

Sarnia will be offering homeowners support through:

- 1) Filter Rebate Program.
- 2) Lead Service Line Replacement Loan Program.



Image: Sarnia let's get the lead out

For More Information:

Lead Reduction Program

519-332-0527, ext. 2232 or leadreduction@sarnia.ca

<http://www.sarnia.ca/living-here/water-wastewater/lead-reduction>

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