

Lead Reduction Program FAQ's

What is the purpose of the Lead Reduction Program?

Homes in Sarnia that were built prior to the mid-1950s are suspected to have been constructed with lead service lines. Through the free verification program, the City will collect data about how many and where the lead lines are located. With this information the City can move forward with a plan to address the issue.

What are the possible sources of lead in drinking water?

Sarnia's water contains little to no traces of lead once it leaves the water treatment plant. Main sources that may introduce lead into your drinking water are:

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

Does my home have a lead service line?

The City of Sarnia has defined a [Lead Zone](#) based on the time period that the infrastructure was developed. The primary "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). Homes in this area are suspected to have a lead service line and it is recommended that an appointment is booked for a free verification visit.

What if I have a lead service line?

If you think that you have a lead service line, contact the City of Sarnia to schedule a verification visit (Phone:519-332-0330 ext.2232 Email: leadreduction@sarnia.ca). If the City confirms the presence of lead, we recommend that you replace the lead service line at your earliest convenience. You may be eligible for participation in the Filter Rebate and/or Lead Service Line Replacement Loan program.

Who is most at risk?

Lead in drinking water is a health concern for children six years old and younger, pregnant women, women who are planning a pregnancy, and the elderly. [Lambton](#)

[Public Health](#) has more information and documents on the effects of lead on these individuals.

Who is responsible for replacing lead service lines?

If the service line from the water-main to the property line is made of lead, it is the City's responsibility to replace. If the service line from the property line into the home is made of lead, it is the homeowner's responsibility to replace. However, while highly recommended, there is no obligation on the homeowner to replace their portion of the lead service line. There are homeowner assistance options such as the Filter Rebate Program and Lead Service Line Replacement Loan that should be explored in the event that a lead service line is verified.

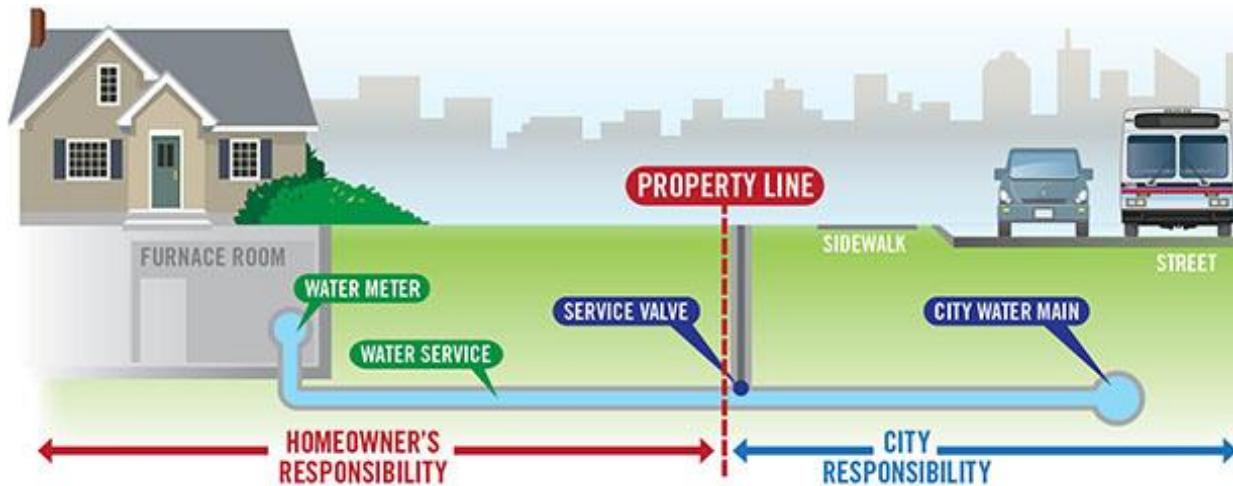


Photo courtesy to the City of Calgary Water Services.

Definitions

Water service lines: The pipes that deliver treated drinking water from the City's water main to private property/a customer's plumbing. The water service line includes all the pipe, valves and fittings from the water-main, through the water meter, ending at the customer's interior plumbing.

City-owned (City-side) service line: The portion of the water service line located on City-owned property, from the water main in the street to the boulevard/property line.

Private Service line: The portion of the water service line located on private property, from the boulevard/property line to the homeowner's interior plumbing.

Lead service line: Water service lines that are entirely or partially made of lead, typically used in homes built before the mid-1950s.

Full service line replacement: Replacement of both the City-owned and privately-owned portions of the water service lines.

Partial service line replacement: Replacement of either the City-owned or the privately-owned portion of the water service line; lead may remain on the portion of the water service line that is not replaced.