

Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) Failure to Complete Inventory for Service Line Materials and/ or Public Accessibility Requirements

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Abbotsford Waterworks failed to inventory lead service lines, a significant source of lead in drinking water

Our water system recently violated a drinking water requirement. Even though this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did (are doing) to correct this situation.

We were required to complete and make publicly accessible a materials inventory of service lines for our distribution system by October 16, 2024. Abbotsford Waterworks did not complete an adequate initial inventory of service line materials in our distribution system, indicating which service lines are made of lead, galvanized requiring replacement, unknown, or non-lead materials. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

What should I do?

Listed below are some steps you can take to reduce your exposure to lead:

- Use your filter properly. Using a filter can reduce lead in drinking water. If you use a filter, make sure you use a filter certified to remove lead. Read the directions to learn how to properly install and use your cartridge and when to replace it. Using the cartridge after it has expired can make it less effective at removing lead. Do not run hot water through the filter.
- Clean your aerator. Regularly clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator). Sediment, debris, and lead particles can collect in your aerator. If lead particles are caught in the aerator, lead can get into your water.
- Use cold water. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking and making baby formula. Remember, boiling water does not remove lead from water.
- Run your water. The more time water has been sitting in pipes, the more lead it may contain. Before drinking, flush your home's pipes by running the tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or doing a load of dishes. The amount of time to run the water will depend on whether your home has a lead service line or not, and the length of the lead service line. Residents should contact their water utility for recommendations about flushing times in their community.
- Learn if you have a lead service line. Find out if the pipe that connects your home to the water main (called a service line) is made from lead. Ask your water utility or if your utility doesn't have information a licensed plumber may be able to assist. Protect Your Tap: A quick check for lead is EPA's step by step guide to learn how to find lead pipes in your home.
- Learn about construction in your neighborhood. If you have a lead service line, you should be aware of any nearby construction or maintenance work that could disturb the line. Ground tremors from construction may suddenly cause more lead to be released from a lead service lines in the area.
- Have your water tested. Contact your water utility to have your water tested and to learn more about the lead levels in your drinking water.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours. Typically, lead enters water supplies by leaching from lead pipes, brass faucets, plumbing with leaded solder, and other plumbing components containing lead. In homes with lead pipes that connect the home to the water main, also known as lead service lines, these pipes are typically the most significant source of lead in the water. Lead pipes are more likely to be found in older cities and homes built before 1986. Service lines made of galvanized iron or steel that are (or were previously) downstream of lead service lines are classified as galvanized requiring replacement (GRR). Identifying and ultimately removing lead and GRR service lines is an important way to protect public health. To find out about what we are doing to identify and replace lead service lines, please contact us at 715-223-3444 or email us at info@ci.abbotsford.wi.us. Among homes without lead service lines, the most common problem is with brass or chrome-plated brass faucets and plumbing with lead solder.

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems.

What is being done?

Abbotsford Waterworks is reviewing the initial inventory submitted to the Wisconsin DNR and working on obtaining and correcting any information that was missing in the initial inventory. We expect to re-submit the inventory and be complying by January 31, 2025.

For more information, please contact Josh Soyk at 715-223-3444 or by mail at PO Box 589, Abbotsford WI, 54405.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/lead> or contact your health care provider.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by Abbotsford Waterworks. State Water System ID#: 73701485

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