

## Controlling Corrosion

Since 1987, MWS has had a successful corrosion control program.

A blended food-grade phosphate solution, safe for drinking water, is added to the finished water. This solution bonds to pipes, forming a protective barrier to prevent the water from picking up particles of lead that may be present in lead pipes or soldering.

## What are the risks of lead exposure?



Lead exposure can cause adverse health effects including increases in blood pressure of some adults; delays in normal physical and mental development in babies and young children; and deficits in the attention span, hearing, and learning abilities of children.

## Reduce Your Risk

Identify and replace lead plumbing, including your portion of the service line that leads from the meter to your home

Identify and replace plumbing fixtures containing lead such as brass or bronze

Run your water for 3 - 5 minutes if it has not been used in several hours

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

Periodically remove and clean faucet screen / aerator. While removed, run water to eliminate debris

Have a licensed electrician check for connections between your wiring and your plumbing. If a connection is electrified, it can accelerate corrosion

**Boiling water will NOT reduce lead**

National Lead Information Center: 1.800.424.LEAD  
EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 1.800.426.4791

**NATIONAL HOTLINES**

We view public health as a core part of our mission. MWS consistently provides safe, reliable water services that meet or exceed all state and federal standards for public health.

## Water Quality Reports

MWS regularly tests for potential contaminants, including lead, that may be present in drinking water. The results of testing are released in an Annual Consumer Confidence Report that is made available online at [ccr.nashville.gov](http://ccr.nashville.gov).

Due to the proven success of our corrosion control program, in accordance with State and Federal regulation, MWS samples for lead every three years.

## Lead Testing

If you are concerned about lead pipes in your home or believe you may have lead service lines and are interested in participating in future lead sampling or studies, please contact us at [615-862-4591](tel:615-862-4591) or email [ECO@nashville.gov](mailto:ECO@nashville.gov).

**For more information on testing your water, you can call Metro Water Services at 615.862.4600 or contact a private certified laboratory.**

## Additional Resources

### Environment Protection Agency (EPA)

[www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead)  
1.800.426.4791

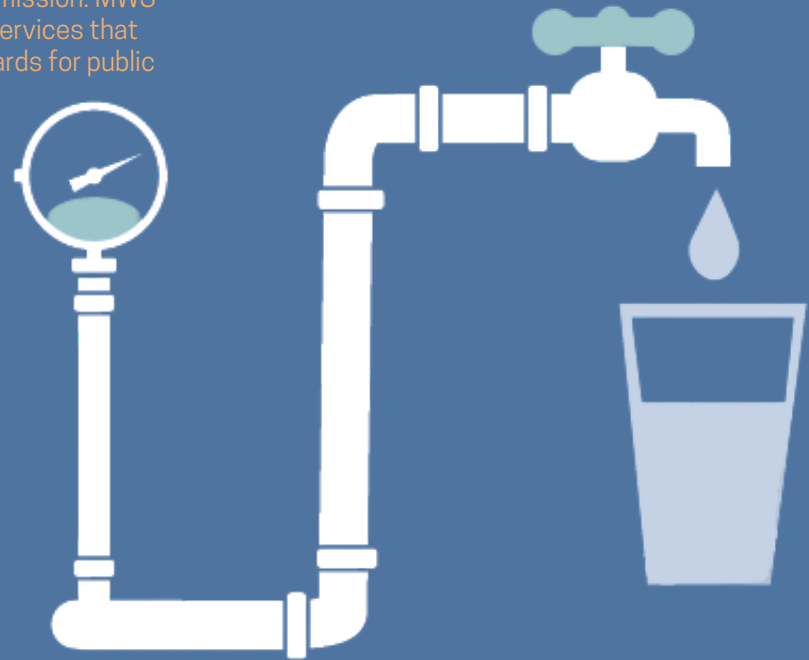
### National Lead Information Center

1.800.424.LEAD



### Metro Water Services

[water.nashville.gov](http://water.nashville.gov)  
615.862.4600



# PREVENTING LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER



# Where is lead found in the home?

Homes built prior to 1978 often contain lead-based paint. When lead paint fails, it can chip or create dust, which can then be ingested. **This is the most common source of lead exposure in children.**



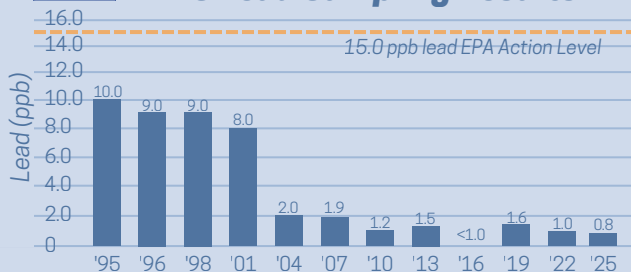
Lead pipes and service lines were common in homes until the mid-1950s. The practice was federally banned in 1986, but lead was still used for soldering for copper pipe until 1988. Brass fixtures may also contain trace amounts of lead.

# How can lead enter my drinking water?

Nashville's drinking water does not contain lead when it leaves the treatment plants, but tap water can accumulate trace amounts of lead through the corrosion of lead plumbing materials. Metro Water Services (MWS) regularly tests for lead in the drinking water at a selected number of lead service line locations.

**\*MWS has not ever exceeded the Action Level**

## MWS Lead Sampling Results



Before 2019, we were unable to detect lead in our laboratory below one ppb, even with the best available technology - 1ppb is equivalent to 1 second in approximately 32 years. Due to advances in technology, we are now able to detect lead at parts per trillion (ppt) levels - 1 ppt is equivalent to 1 second in almost 32,000 years. As a result, analysis done after 2019 reflects an increase in sensitivity, precision and accuracy rather than an increase in the level of lead in our water.

# TIMELINE LEAD REGULATION

Knowing when your home was built can help you determine if it's at risk for lead



## mid-1950s

Lead is no longer used to make pipes and service lines. These materials are phased out of use.

## 1955

Metro Water Services ends the use of lead pipes for service lines.

## 1982

Use of copper pipe with lead solder becomes common for household plumbing.

## 1986

Congress enacts "lead ban" requiring that both public water systems and private systems connected to a public water system use "lead-free materials."

## 1987

Metro Water Services begins corrosion control program to prevent lead from leaching into Nashville's drinking water.

## 1988

Use of copper pipe with lead solder for household plumbing ends.

## 2014

Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act becomes effective.

## 2021

EPA issues Lead and Copper Rule Revisions to better protect children and communities from risks of lead exposure.

# How do I know if I have lead plumbing?

1. Identify the color of your pipes. Lead pipe is generally a dull gray.
2. Carefully scratch the pipe with a key. If the pipe is made of lead, the area you have scratched will turn a bright silver color. Do not use a knife or other sharp instrument and take care not to cut or puncture a hole in the pipe.



Note that galvanized piping can also be dull gray in color. A strong magnet will typically cling to galvanized pipes, but will NOT cling to lead pipes.

# Replacing Lead Plumbing



## Our Infrastructure

MWS replaces lead pipes found in our infrastructure during repair or other construction activities, including our portion of your water service line that extends between the meter and the utility main.



## Your Home

Lead plumbing on a customer's property is not part of the public water system and is the responsibility of the property owner to replace. This includes the portion of the service line that extends from the meter to the building or residence. If your home has a lead service line, it is likely that other sources of lead exist in the home as well. MWS strongly advises that you contact a licensed plumber for any work on your service line or home plumbing.

## Certified Lead-Free Products

Replacing pipes and fixtures in your home or business as you remodel, upgrade, add-on or build new can further protect you and your family from risks of lead exposure. When replacing pipes and other plumbing materials, the EPA recommends using products that are certified as lead free. Guidance on how to research, review and select certified lead-free products can be found on their website at [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead).