

MWC Urges Customers To Get the Lead Out

As lead in drinking water continues to make national news headlines, MWC is encouraging customers to become educated about the composition of their service line. Lead service lines and lead solder used in household plumbing can be sources of lead in drinking water and can cause a variety of harmful health effects. Middlesex Water proactively eliminated all Company owned and identified lead service lines in its Middlesex retail system more than 25 years ago when the USEPA's Lead and Copper Rule was enacted. The Company is in compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule, which sets standards for lead in drinking water. However, the service line (or distribution pipe) that carries water from the Company's connection, typically near the curb, to the home is owned by the customer and is the customer's responsibility. This line may be made of lead. If so, we recommend customers of the Middlesex retail system contact a licensed plumber to replace the line. Customers should first determine if this portion of the line contains lead and can do so by taking the following steps:



- 1 Find the water meter in the basement. Find the pipe that comes through the outside wall into your home and connects to the meter.
- 2 Carefully and lightly scratch the pipe with a key or coin. Do not use a sharp tool and use caution so as to not make a hole in the pipe. Lead is dull and very soft. If the scratch you made turns a shiny silver color, the pipe could be made of lead or steel. If you place a magnet on the pipe you scratched and the magnet sticks, it is a steel pipe. Magnets will not stick to lead or copper.
- 3 You can also purchase a lead kit at your home improvement store. But be sure the kit you purchase tests what the pipe is made of and not the water inside. Additionally, a licensed plumber will be able to inspect your pipes to determine if they are made of lead.
- 4 If you determine your service line is made of lead, please contact the Company at 732-638-7665 so we can confirm the finding. It is important you contact us before your plumber begins any replacement work,
- 5 Should you choose to replace your service line, please contact the company and we will perform pre-replacement lead water testing. Following the replacement of the pipe, we will provide post-replacement home flushing guidance and post-replacement lead testing.

"We're encouraging customers to stay informed about lead issues, to learn the composition of their service line and the risks associated with having lead in service lines or household plumbing, and to address those findings for their own health and safety."

Dave Brogle • MWC Director of Water Quality

