



Date

Name

Address

www.CityofAmes.org/lead

NOTICE OF WATER SERVICE LINE THAT COULD CONTAIN LEAD

The City of Ames is focused on protecting the health of every household in our community. This notice contains important information about your drinking water. Please share this information with anyone who drinks and/or cooks using water at this property. In addition to people directly served at this property, this can include people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, businesses, as well as parents served by childcare at this property. **You must share this information with anyone who may consume drinking water from this service line.**

The Ames Water Plant has determined that all or part of the water pipe (called a “service line”) that connects this property to the City’s water main may contain lead. People consuming water from this service line may have an increased risk of exposure to lead from their drinking water.

What our records show for this address:

The service line is composed, partially or entirely, of either:

- Lead pipes, including lead fittings and lead solder; or
- Galvanized material that is, or once was, downstream of lead pipes. Galvanized service lines that have absorbed lead can contribute to lead in drinking water. People living in homes with a galvanized service line that has absorbed lead may have an increased risk of exposure to lead from their drinking water, even if the lead pipes have been removed.

Our records may not be accurate. If you think your service line material is different than our records show, please contact the Ames Water Meter Division at (515) 239-5151. We can come to your home and help determine the service line material. The United States Environmental Protection Agency

(EPA) has also developed an online step-by-step guide to help people identify lead pipes in their homes called Protect Your Tap: A Quick Check for Lead. It is available at:

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/protect-your-tap-quick-check-lead>

If you have information that confirms your service line material, please contact the Ames Water Meter Division at (515) 239-5151 so that we may update our records.

Health effects of lead

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

What the Ames Water Plant does to reduce lead

It is important to know that there is no lead in the water leaving the Ames Water Treatment Plant. However, some plumbing materials used in homes and businesses may contain lead. To reduce the potential for lead to leach into drinking water, the Ames Water Plant maintains precise control over the water chemistry. The water in Ames is “slightly depositing,” meaning that it forms a thin layer on the inside of pipes creating a barrier between lead plumbing and drinking water.

Steps you can take to reduce lead in drinking water

Below are recommended actions that you may take, separately or in combination, if you are concerned about lead in your drinking water. The list includes for more information. It is not intended to be a complete list or to imply that all actions equally reduce lead in drinking water.

Use a water filter. Using a filter can reduce lead in drinking water. If you use a filter, it should be certified to remove lead. Read any directions provided with the filter to learn how to properly install, maintain, 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. For more information on facts and advice on home water filtration systems, visit EPA’s website at <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/consumer-tool-identifying-point-use-and-pitcher-filters-certified-reduce-lead>

Clean your aerator. Regularly remove and 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. Do not use hot water from the tap for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula as lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Boiling water does not remove lead from water.

Run your water before using. The more time water has been sitting in pipes providing water to your home, 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, as well as the length and diameter of the service line and the amount of plumbing in your home. For smaller homes on small lots, 30 seconds is a good estimate; for larger homes, a longer flushing period may be needed.

Have your water tested. Contact us at the Ames Water Plant (contact information is shown at the end of this letter) to have your water tested (at no cost to you) and to learn more about the lead levels in your drinking water. Alternatively, you may contact a certified laboratory to have your water tested for lead. Note, a water sample may not adequately capture or represent all sources of lead that may be present in a home or business. For information on sources of lead that include service lines and interior plumbing, please visit

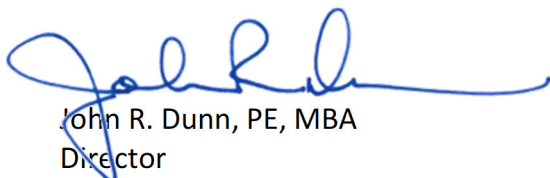
<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water#getinto>.

Learn about construction in your neighborhood. Contact the Ames Public Works Department at (515) 239-5160 to find out about any construction or maintenance work that could disturb your service line. Construction may cause more lead to be released from a lead service line or galvanized service line if present. You can view an online map of current and planned construction projects at

<https://www.cityofames.org/government/departments-divisions-i-z/public-works/construction-updates-faqs>

Replace your service line. The surest way to eliminate lead in your drinking water is to remove the source of lead. Just like the plumbing fixtures inside the home, the service line is owned by, and it the responsibility of, the property owner. It is not a part of the City's water utility. The typical cost to replace a service line is between \$10,000 and \$15,000, depending on how long your service line is, which side of the street the water main is located, and other buried infrastructure that could make the work more complex. If you are planning to replace your service line, your plumber will need to contact the City to obtain a plumbing permit. While the City currently does not have any cost share options, you should contact the Ames Water Plant before hiring a plumber, as cost share options may become available in the future.

We realize this is a lot of information, and we are available to help you understand your property's unique situation. Please reach out to the staff listed on the following page; they will be happy to answer your questions.



John R. Dunn, PE, MBA
Director
Ames Water and Pollution Control

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For questions about how we determined your service line material:

Shawn Cole, Cross-connection Control Coordinator
300 E 5th Street
(515) 239-5151
shawn.cole@cityofames.org

For general lead questions:

Calvin Forte, Superintendent
1800 E 13th Street
(515) 239-5150
calvin.forte@cityofames.org

To arrange to have your water tested for lead:

Maureen Moroney, Laboratory Supervisor
300 E 5th Street
(515) 239-5151
maureen.moroney@cityofames.org

For a listing of all service lines in Ames with the material that the City believes the service line to be comprised of, visit:

www.cityofames.org/lead

For more information on reducing lead exposure from your drinking water and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at

<http://www.epa.gov/lead>

Contact the State of Iowa Department of Public Health, the Story County Public Health Department, or your physician if you have concerns about health effects caused by lead.

<https://hhs.iowa.gov/epi-manual-guide-surveillance-investigation-and-reporting/environmental-disease/lead-poisoning>

<https://www.storycountyiowa.gov/1388/Public-Health>