

# Old Homes and Water Service Lines

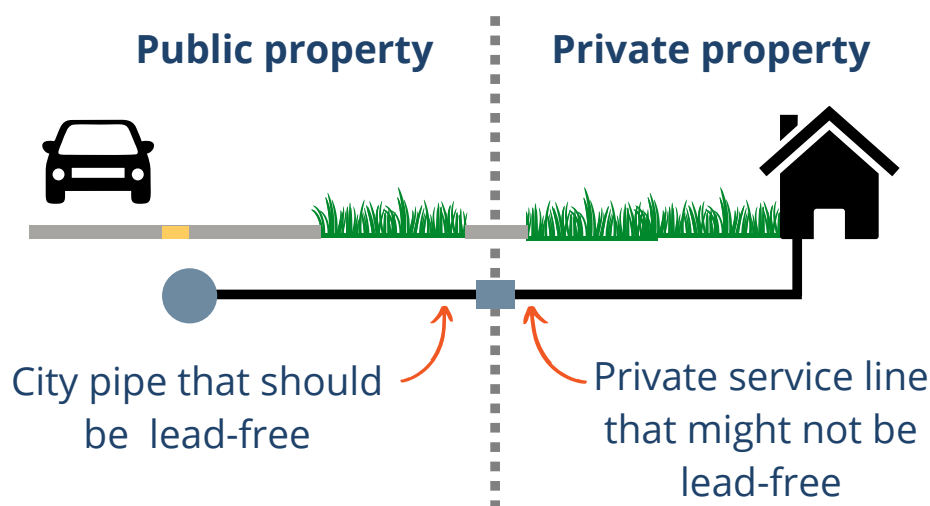
## Exposure to Lead in Detroit



Scan here  
for resources

### How does lead get into drinking water?

The Safe Drinking Water Act of 1986 prohibited the use of lead pipes to transport water.<sup>2</sup> But, 12 out of 100 private service lines that deliver water to older homes in Michigan are still made of lead.<sup>3</sup> These are separate from the public water pipes that have already been replaced with lead-free pipes.<sup>3</sup>



### How can I prevent lead from contaminating my drinking water?

- Determine if you have a lead service line and get your water tested by using the resources labeled “Step 1” and “Step 2” on the next page.<sup>4</sup>
- Run cold water for 1 minute in the morning to flush contaminated water out of your pipes.<sup>4</sup>
- Clean your faucet aerators monthly (the small screen where water comes out of your sink faucet).<sup>4</sup>



## Who is most at risk and how are they affected?

There is no safe level of lead in the blood.<sup>1</sup>



- Children under 6 years are more vulnerable to lead exposure because of their tendency to explore the world by putting things in their mouth.<sup>1</sup>
- Women exposed to lead during or before pregnancy can have higher risk of miscarriage, stillbirth, and premature birth.<sup>1</sup>

## How can I protect myself and my community from lead in my drinking water?

Step 1: Determine if you have a lead service line

- Follow National Public Radio's instructions (<https://n.pr/3Xq4mFd>)

Step 2: Test your water for lead

- If you know you have a lead service line, or the instructions above indicated you might, you can apply for free testing and possible service line replacement through the City of Detroit (<https://bit.ly/3V9SlAF>)

## What community support is available?

DLEAD Detroit Parent Group (<https://bit.ly/4c7TRKN>)



- A Facebook group to support parents and work for a lead-free Detroit
- Provides education and prevention tips for families with a child with elevated blood lead levels (<https://bit.ly/4aO6VUu>)

Lead Out Detroit: Get the Lead Out Detroit Coalition (<https://bit.ly/455peTP>)



- A coalition of Detroit community and environmental organizations supporting lead safety
- Provides lead exposure information and protection recommendations

Detroit Water & Sewage Department (DWSD) Lead Service Line Replacement



- DWSD is working to replace lead service lines in Detroit. (<https://bit.ly/4e1ChZQ>)
- Reach out to DWSD for information.
- DWSD Lead Safe Hotline (313) 267-8000

Please see [http://mleead.umich.edu/Coec\\_Fact\\_Sheets.php](http://mleead.umich.edu/Coec_Fact_Sheets.php) for the citations included in this factsheet. This research was supported by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) (#R01ES022616, #R01ES032389) and the Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation, with additional support provided by the Michigan Center on Lifestage Environmental Exposures and Disease (M-LEEd) (NIEHS #P30ES017885).