

Old Homes and Water Service Lines

Exposure to Lead in Detroit



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for resources

The M-LEEaD Center's Community Engagement Core (CEC) increases awareness and understanding of environmental health research.

Stakeholder Advocacy Board members include:

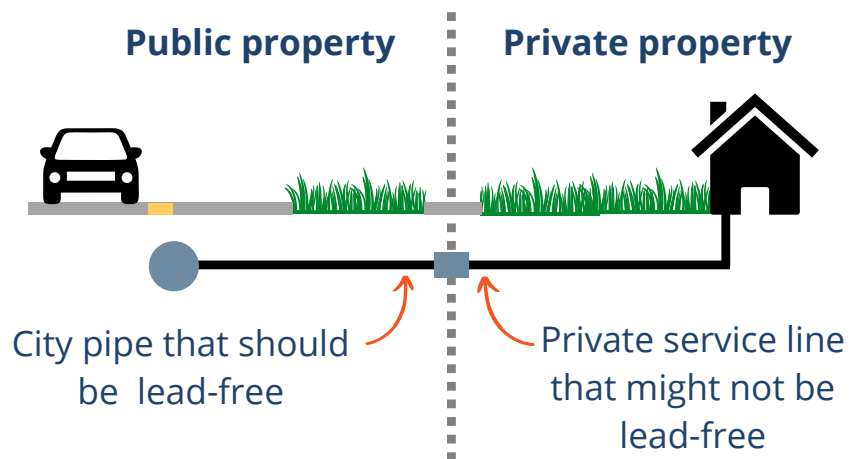
- Community Health and Social Services
- The Detroit Health Department
- Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation
- Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice
- Eastside Community Network
- Ecology Center
- Green Door Initiative
- MDHHS
- Sierra Club
- We the People of Detroit

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How does lead get into drinking water?

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



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.⁴
- Run cold water for 1 minute in the morning to flush contaminated water out of your pipes.⁴
- Clean your faucet aerators monthly (the small screen where water comes out of your sink faucet).⁴



Who is most at risk and how are they affected?

There is no safe level of lead in the blood.¹



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

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?

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



- A Facebook group to support parents and advocate 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 for the citations included in this factsheet.

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