

# Replacing lead pipes

## ACCELERATED REHABILITATION

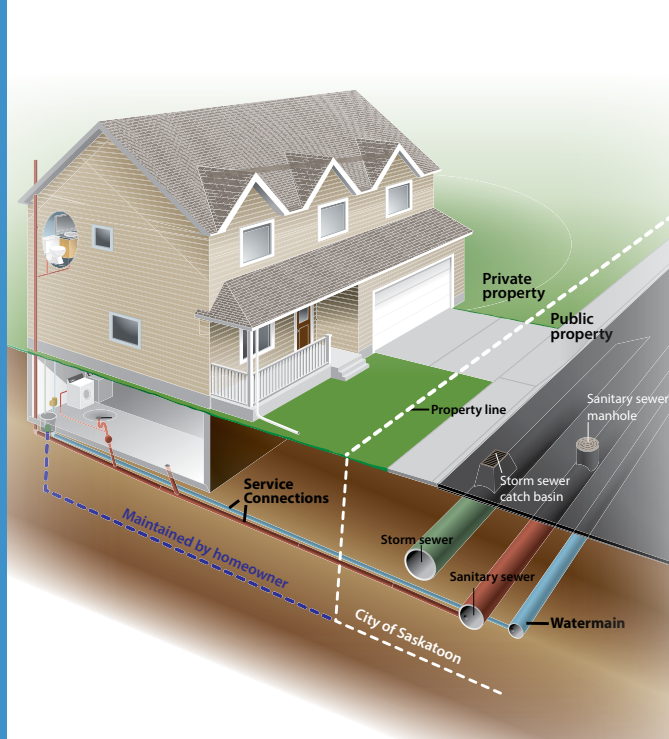
An aggressive lead pipe replacement program will begin in 2017 to complete all 4,900 remaining lead water service pipes over the next 10 years.

## THE CITY'S ROLE

- Lead pipe replacement will be coordinated with necessary water main and road upgrades over the next 10 years.
- You will be notified of scheduled work two to three months in advance.
- Homeowners who requested to be added to a replacement list before August 2016 will be scheduled for replacement in 2017/2018.

## THE HOMEOWNER'S ROLE

- When the City is replacing lead water service pipes, it must include both public and private portions. The homeowner is responsible for 40% of the total cost.
- The City does not allow partial replacement of lead water service pipes because of the increased risk to public health.
- The homeowner is also responsible for any other cost associated with internal plumbing issues. Ask a licensed plumber for a cost estimate.
- You may replace your lead water service pipes immediately at your own cost. Visit [saskatoon.ca/lead](http://saskatoon.ca/lead) for reimbursement details.



## WATERMAIN AND SERVICE PIPES

- The City is responsible for the watermain and the portion of the water service pipes located on **Public property**.
- The Homeowner is responsible for the portion of the water service pipes located on **Private property**.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[saskatoon.ca/lead](http://saskatoon.ca/lead)

[drinkingwater@saskatoon.ca](mailto:drinkingwater@saskatoon.ca)

Phone: 306-975-2476



# Reduce lead in drinking water

For homes with lead water service pipes



# Is there lead in my water?

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## SASKATOON WATER IS SAFE TO DRINK

Strict monitoring procedures are in place to ensure City of Saskatoon is among the safest drinking water in the world. Saskatchewan Water Security Agency reviews water quality test results regularly as part of our Permit to Operate.

The lead level content in the City's drinking water when it enters the water distribution system is **virtually lead-free** and 100 times lower than the Health Canada allowable limit.

## NEIGHBOURHOODS OLDER THAN 1950

Approximately 4,900 properties within city neighbourhoods older than 1950 may still have water service pipes made of lead.

Even though short-term water consumption above the allowable limit does not necessarily pose a health risk, excess quantities of lead may impact human health, especially in young children.

## TEST YOUR WATER FOR LEAD

If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you can have your tap water tested by a private, accredited licensed laboratory.

# What can I do to reduce my exposure to lead?

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## 1. RUN TAP BEFORE YOU DRINK

Lead can dissolve into your drinking water when it sits stagnant in household pipes. Flushing toilets, doing laundry, and running showers all help ensure your drinking water is fresh. If your water has not been used for at least 6 hours, run the cold water faucet for about five minutes before drinking or cooking.

This water does not have to be wasted – it is safe to use for cleaning or watering plants.

Keep a container of drinking water in your refrigerator so you don't have to run water every time you want a drink. **Remember that boiling water does not remove lead.**

## 2. REMOVE AND CLEAN YOUR TAP SCREEN

Most household taps have an aerating screen attached to the end. Calcium carbonate can build up on the screen and absorb lead. Make it a habit to remove the screen and clean off any build up every month.

## 3. INSTALL A CERTIFIED WATER FILTER

Although the health risks are very low, children under six and pregnant women should consume drinking water from an alternate source.

Look for a National Sanitation Foundation certified filter marked with NSF-053 that attaches to your drinking water tap or separate water pitcher.

## 4. MODERNIZE YOUR PLUMBING

The most effective way to remove lead in drinking water is to remove brass fittings and pipes containing older lead solder and replace them with material certified for contact with drinking water.

A licensed plumber can determine if your home has lead water service pipes, and whether the home contains lead solder, lead pipes or lead pipe fittings.