

# Replacing lead pipes

## ACCELERATED REHABILITATION

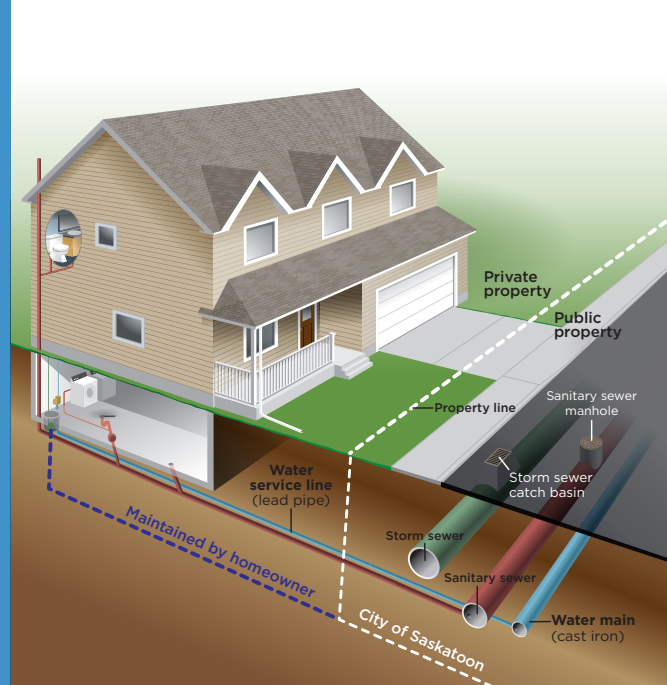
The City is aggressively replacing lead pipes used for water service lines and will be in contact when your area is scheduled.

## THE CITY'S ROLE

- Lead pipe replacement will be coordinated with necessary water main and road upgrades.
- You will be notified of scheduled work two to three months in advance.
- Once your area is scheduled, you will receive an information package to guide you through the process with ongoing support by City staff.

## THE HOMEOWNER'S ROLE

- When the city is replacing lead pipes, it must include both public (white dotted line in diagram on the back page) and private (blue dotted line) portions of the service line.
- The homeowner is responsible for 40% of the total cost.
- 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 service line immediately at your own cost. Visit [saskatoon.ca/lead](http://saskatoon.ca/lead) for reimbursement details, including payment options.
- The City does not allow partial replacement of a service line because of the increased risk to public health.



## WATER MAIN AND SERVICE LINE

- The City is responsible for the water main (made of cast iron) and the portion of the service line located on **public property**.
- The Homeowner is responsible for the portion of the water service line located on **private property**.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[saskatoon.ca/lead](http://saskatoon.ca/lead)  
[customercare@saskatoon.ca](mailto:customercare@saskatoon.ca)  
Phone: 306-975-2476



# Reduce lead in your drinking water

For homes with lead 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 water is among the safest drinking water in the world.

While the lead level content in the City's drinking water when it enters the water distribution system is **well below** the Health Canada allowable limit, testing has found that when drinking water sits unused in lead pipes, lead levels are likely to be higher than recommended.

## NEIGHBOURHOODS OLDER THAN 1950

Properties within city neighbourhoods built before 1950 may still have lead pipes. The City is actively working with homeowners to replace these pipes.

## 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 enter your drinking water when it sits in household lead pipes between uses. Flushing toilets, doing laundry, and running showers all help keep your drinking water fresh. 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

Young children and pregnant women should consume drinking water from an alternate source or **use a filter certified for lead removal**. Look for a **National Sanitation Foundation** certified filter marked with NSF-053 that attaches to your fridge, ice maker, drinking water tap or comes as a separate water pitcher. It's important to follow the manufacturer's recommendations for replacing filters.

## 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. Remember, even after replacement work is complete, lead levels can remain high in drinking water for a short time. Drinking water precautions should continue for a minimum of six months after lead pipes are replaced.

A licensed plumber can determine if your home has internal lead plumbing, lead solder or lead pipe fittings. The City will advise you if you have a lead service line.