IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The Village of Boyceville was Unsuccessful in Developing and Making Public an Initial Service Line Inventory That Met All Federal Requirements

Our water system recently violated a drinking water requirement. This is not an emergency, however as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did (are doing) to correct this situation.

We were required to develop and make publicly available an initial inventory of service lines connected to our distribution system by October 16, 2024. **"Our system failed to submit the initial inventory of service lines That Met All Federal Requirements to the WI Dept. of Natural Resources by October 16, 2024."** The inventory must identify the service line materials as lead galvanized requiring replacement (GRR)[1], lead-status unknown/unknown, or non-lead. Identifying and ultimately removing lead and GRR service lines is an important way to protect public health.

There is the potential your service line could contain lead. People living in homes with service lines that contain lead have an increased risk of exposure to lead from their drinking water.

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

What should I do?

Listed below are some steps you can take to reduce your exposure to lead:

- **Learn what your service line and premise plumbing material is.** Contact us at **715-643-2678 or publicworks@boyceville.gov** or a licensed plumber to determine if the pipe that connects your home to the water main (called a service line) or piping inside your building is made from lead, galvanized, or other materials. Protect Your Tap: A quick check for lead is the EPA's online step by step guide to learn how to find lead pipes in your home (www.epa.gov/pyt).
- **Learn about construction in your neighborhood.** Unless your service line is not made of lead or galvanized you should be aware of any nearby construction or maintenance work that could disturb the line. Ground tremors from construction may suddenly cause more lead to be released from lead or galvanized service lines in the area.
- **Use your filter properly.** Using a filter can reduce lead in drinking water. If you use a filter, make sure you use a filter certified to remove lead. Read the directions to learn how to properly install 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.
- **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.

[1] A galvanized requiring replacement service line is a galvanized service line that is or was potentially downstream of a lead service line.

- **Use cold water.** Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Remember, boiling water does not remove lead from water.
- **Run your water.** The more time water has been sitting in pipes, 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, and the length of the lead service line. Residents should contact their water utility for recommendations about flushing times in their community.
- **Have your water tested.** Contact your water utility for a list of certified laboratories to order a home test kit or hire a licensed plumber to have your water tested and to learn more about the lead levels in your drinking water.

An alternative water source is not needed.

What does this mean?

Service line inventories are the foundation from which water systems take action to address a significant source of lead in drinking water. Establishing an inventory of service line materials and identifying the location of lead and GRR service lines is a key step in getting them replaced and protecting public health. Typically, lead enters water supplies by leaching from lead pipes, brass faucets, plumbing with leaded solder, and other plumbing components containing lead. In homes with lead pipes that connect the home to the water main, also known as lead services lines, these pipes are typically the most significant source of lead in the water. Lead pipes are more likely to be found in older cities and homes built before 1986. Service lines made of galvanized iron or steel that are (or were previously) downstream of lead service lines are classified as galvanized requiring replacement (GRR) because galvanized service lines that are or ever were downstream from an LSL can adsorb lead and contribute to lead in drinking water. Identifying and ultimately removing lead and GRR service lines is an important way to protect public health.

What is being done?

The Village has teamed with Jacobs Engineering to complete the inventory list which meets all Federal requirements. It is anticipated that this will be completed and submitted to the DNR by June 1, 2025. The completed list will also be publicly available via the Village website upon submittal at https://boyceville.gov/

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at http://www.epa.gov/lead or contact your health care provider.

For more information, please contact Craig Dotseth at 715-643-2678 or Village of Boyceville, PO Box 368, Boyceville Wi, 54725.

**Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail. **

This notice is being sent to you by **The Village of Boyceville**. Public Water System ID#: **61702608**

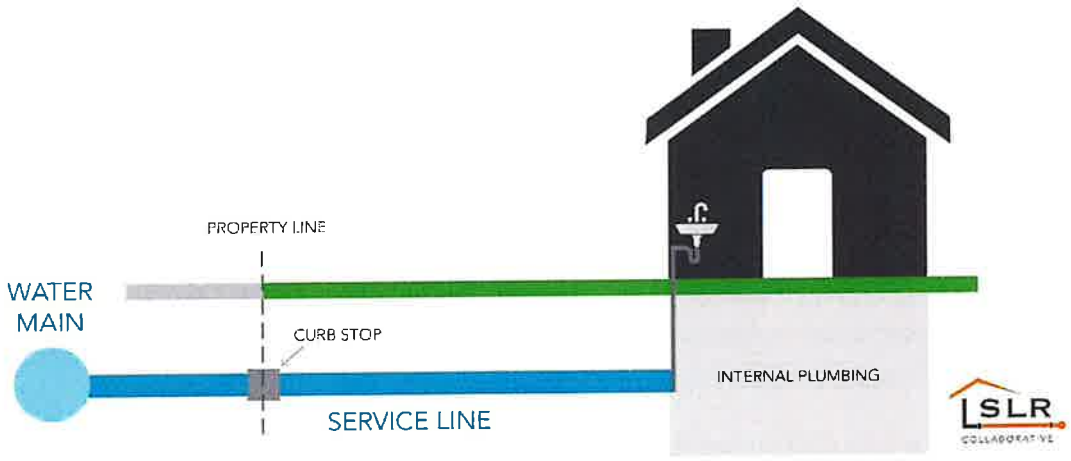
Date distributed: **April 17,2025**.

Notice of unknown service line material

The Village of Roberts 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.

The Village of Roberts is working to identify service line materials throughout the water system and has determined that the water pipe (called a service line) that connects your home, building, or other structure to the water main is made from **unknown material** but may be lead. Because your service line material is unknown, there is the potential that some or all of the service line could be made of lead or galvanized pipe that was previously connected to lead. People living in homes with a lead or galvanized pipe previously connected to a lead service line have an increased risk of exposure to lead from their drinking water.

The figure below represents a typical scenario for a residence in many cases but does not represent all scenarios. Water systems may wish to replace the image with one of their own or remove it.



Identifying service line material

The Village of Roberts Public Works employees have been in your house to either install a meter, replace a meter or for a cross connection at which time this would have been checked but was not recorded in the past. To help determine the material of your service line, please visit the website below. EPA has 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.

Health effects of lead

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or

during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems.[1]

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 also includes where you may find more information and is not intended to be a complete list or to imply that all actions equally reduce lead in drinking water.

Use filters properly. 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, see EPA's https://www.epa.gov/water-research/consumer-tool-identifying-point-use-and-pitcher-filters-certified-reduce-lead.

Clean your aerator. Regularly 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.

Learn about construction in your neighborhood. Contact us at 715-749-3126 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.

Have your water tested. The Village of Roberts does test for lead and copper throughout the Village. However, the Village does not do individual home testing. You may contact a certified laboratory to have your water tested for lead. A list of certified laboratories is available at https://apps.dnr.wi.gov/dwsportalpub/BactiLab. Note, a water sample may not adequately capture or represent all sources of lead that may be present. 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.

Get your child tested to determine lead levels in their blood.

Although there is no confirmation of having a lead service line, you may wish to speak with a healthcare provider to see if your child's blood lead level is elevated and/or if there is a need for blood testing, if you are concerned about potential exposure. Please visit https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/advisory/acclpp/actions-blls.htm for information on these actions.

Replacing lead service lines

If you are planning on replacing the portion of the service line that you own, please notify us at cschuh@robertswisconsin.com.

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.*
