



City of Brockton

Patrick Hill
Commissioner

Department of Public Works

Mark Peterson
Director
of Operations

CITY OF BROCKTON DRINKING WATER NOTICE

Your home is served by a Galvanized Requiring Replacement service line and your service line may contain lead.

This notice contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you or speak with someone who understands it. Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water at this address, 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. If you are a property manager or owner of a multi-family building, email dpw@cobma.us to confirm that this posting has been made public.

Visite <https://brockton.ma.us/city-departments/public-works/> para obtener una traducción al español de este aviso público. Por favor, visite <https://brockton.ma.us/city-departments/public-works/> para obter uma tradução para português deste aviso. Veuillez visiter <https://brockton.ma.us/city-departments/public-works/> pour une traduction française de cet avis public. Tanpri vizite <https://brockton.ma.us/city-departments/public-works/> pou yon tradiksyon kreyòl ayisyen nan avi piblik sa a.

Dear Customer,

Water systems are now required to document all water service line materials and identify any lead or lead containing materials. Our most recent inventory has determined that the privately owned part of the water pipe (called a service line) that connects your home or building to the water main is made from galvanized material and may have absorbed lead. EPA has defined these service lines as “**galvanized requiring replacement**”. This material is not made of lead but may have built up lead deposits over time due to an existing or previous upstream lead service line; it can be a source of lead in your drinking water.

EPA has defined “Galvanized Requiring Replacement” to mean where a galvanized service line is or was at any time downstream of a lead service line or is currently downstream of a “Lead Status Unknown” service line. If the water system is unable to demonstrate that the galvanized service line was never downstream of a lead service line, it must presume there was an upstream lead service line.

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.

Steps you can take to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water.

- **Run your water to flush out lead.** Lead levels increase over time as water sits in lead-containing plumbing materials. Before drinking or cooking with your water after it has sat overnight or longer, flush your home’s pipes by running water through the kitchen faucet, taking a shower, or doing any other non-consumptive water usage. Run the water for at least 1 minute or until after it turns cold. The amount of time to run the water will depend on whether your home has a lead service line or not, as well as the length and diameter of the service line and the amount of plumbing in your home.

“City of Champions”

BROCKTON CITY HALL - 45 SCHOOL STREET - BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02301

TEL: (508) 580-7135 FAX: (508) 580-7169

dpw@cobma.us

- **Use only cold, fresh water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula.** Run the water for at least 1 minute or until after it turns cold.
- **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water does not remove 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. Lead particles can release lead into your water. See how to clean your aerator at [important-resources-for-safe-drinking-water.pdf \(epa.gov\)](https://www.epa.gov/important-resources-for-safe-drinking-water.pdf).
- **Use your filter properly, if you use a filter.** Filters can reduce lead in drinking water. Make sure it is certified by NSF to remove lead- it will say so on the package. Follow directions to properly install, use, and replace your filter. Do not run hot water through the filter. For more information, and which certifications to look for, visit EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/consumer-tool-identifying-point-use-and-pitcher-filters-certified-reduce-lead>.
- **Identify and replace plumbing fixtures** containing lead and any copper piping with lead solder.
- **Have your child's blood tested for lead.** Children are a higher risk group of the health effects of lead. If you would like to have your child tested, you may contact your health care provider, or local state health department here: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/childhood-lead-poisoning-prevention-program>.
- **Have your water tested for lead. You cannot see, taste or smell lead in drinking water.** Contact our system for more information about lead in your drinking water and how to get your water tested by a state certified laboratory. See the list of labs here: [Certified Laboratory Search Results \(https://www.mass.gov/how-to/find-a-certified-laboratory-for-water-testing\)](https://www.mass.gov/how-to/find-a-certified-laboratory-for-water-testing).

Opportunities to Replace Lead Service Lines

In Brockton, the water utility is responsible for the service line from the water main in the street to the curb stop valve (typically located at the property line). The property owner is responsible for the service line from the curb stop valve to the plumbing inside your home. The City of Brockton (City) owned portion of your water service is of unknown material or was replaced but the previous water service material was unknown, while the homeowner owned portion is galvanized. Unknown material means that the service line could contain lead and therefore, the galvanized pipe should be replaced.

The City is developing a plan to potentially identify the historical water service material for the City owned portion. This plan will include field investigations, records review, and predictive modeling to confirm if a lead service was ever upstream of your galvanized service line. The City will provide you with an update with the findings from this plan. For more information, please contact the City at 508-580-7135 or dpw@cobma.us.

If a lead service is confirmed to be upstream of your galvanized water service, the City recommends the homeowner consider replacing their service line at the earliest convenience. If you are planning on replacing the portion of the service line that you own, please notify us at 508-580-7135 or dpw@cobma.us.

Financing for Homeowner Lead Service Line Replacement

The City is currently creating a financial assistance program for service line replacement. Please consider contacting your home insurance company regarding any information they may have on insurance solutions. For Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) information on Lead in Drinking Water see <https://www.mass.gov/lead-in-drinking-water>.

The City is **required** to replace its portion of a lead or galvanized requiring replacement service line if the homeowner notifies the City that they are replacing their portion of the service line.

Please notify the City if you disagree with the service line material categorization in our service line inventory, using the contact information below. For more information, contact the City at 508-580-7135 or dpw@cobma.us.

This notice is being sent to you by the City of Brockton. PWS ID#: 4044000 Date distributed 11/8/24

Distributed media type: Mailing

"City of Champions"

BROCKTON CITY HALL - 45 SCHOOL STREET - BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02301

TEL: (508) 580-7135 FAX: (508) 580-7169

dpw@cobma.us

