

# LEAD AND COPPER RULE

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What is the City of Weatherford doing about lead service lines?

The City of Weatherford is committed to providing safe and clean water to all our customers. We comply with all federal and state regulations to maintain high water quality. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued new regulations, including the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) and the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI). Under the revisions, water systems are required to perform an inventory of water service line materials to learn if the water system contains any lead or galvanized steel water service lines.

Water providers were required to provide a preliminary inventory to TCEQ by October 16, 2024. A copy of the initial inventory can be found on the City of Weatherford's website under the Lead & Copper Rule page <https://weatherfordtx.gov/3543/Lead-Copper-Rule>.

The City of Weatherford will continue working to complete the service line inventory through field investigations and routine maintenance. EPA regulations require that full identification of all service lines be completed by December 31, 2034. However, the City's goal is to complete full identification by December 2025.

Once identification of all service line materials is complete, the City of Weatherford will develop a plan for replacement of any "lead" service lines and any made of "galvanized requiring replacement" (GRR). The new EPA regulations require full replacement of lead service lines and GRR by December 31, 2037. However, the City's goal is to have all replacements, public and private, completed by October 2027. The City of Weatherford will contact you regarding the replacement of any private service lines, if required.

### What is a water service line?

A service line is the pipe that is connected to the water main and provides water to your home or business.

### Who owns the service line?

A service line is comprised of both a "public" and a "private" portion. The public portion, owned and maintained by the City of Weatherford, extends from the water main to the water meter, generally located at the property line, and includes the water meter. The private portion, owned by the property owner, extends from the water meter to the home or commercial building.

### **What types of material are service lines made of?**

Service lines are most commonly made of copper or plastic (such as PVC or PEX), but can also be made of lead, galvanized steel (which might contain lead), brass, cast iron, or ductile iron. A national ban on lead pipes took effect in June 1988, so homes built before June 1988 may have lead pipes that connect the home to the utility's water main. Homes built after June 1988 should not have a lead service line. While this ban prevented the further use of lead pipes, it did not mandate replacement of existing lead pipes.

### **What is “galvanized requiring replacement”?**

A service line that is made of galvanized steel/iron that is, or ever was, located downstream of a lead pipe is classified as “galvanized requiring replacement” (GRR). Additionally, if it is unknown whether a lead pipe ever existed upstream of the galvanized pipe, then the galvanized pipe must be categorized as GRR.

### **Why did I receive a letter stating that my service line was made of “lead”, “galvanized requiring replacement”, or “unknown” materials?**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued new regulations, including the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) and the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI). One of the requirements under the new regulations is to perform an inventory of water service line materials to determine if the water system contains any lead or galvanized steel water service lines, and to notify customers if any portion of their service line is made of lead, galvanized requiring replacement (GRR) or unknown materials.

### **Why did I receive a notification telling me I may have a lead service line if my service line material is listed as “unknown”?**

As a precaution, the new LCRR and LCRI regulations require water systems to send a notification to all customers with an “unknown” service line material. If your service line material is listed as “unknown”, it does not necessarily mean your service line is lead – it simply means that it is currently “unknown”. But until your service line is confirmed to be non-lead, the possibility remains that it could be lead.

**If I am a renter, why did I receive a letter stating that my service line is lead, galvanized requiring replacement, or unknown? Did my landlord/property manager also receive a letter?**

As required by the LCRR and LCRI, the City of Weatherford sent notification letters for lead, galvanized requiring replacement, and unknown service line material to the address that the service line is located at. If you are a renter, it is important for you as the resident who may be consuming the water to be aware of your service line material and the risks of lead exposure. The City of Weatherford did not send copies of the notification letters to landlords/property managers. You will need to contact your landlord/property manager to inform them that you received a letter and determine who may be responsible for replacing the service line, if required.

**Why is my service line material categorized as “unknown”?**

The City of Weatherford does not generally maintain information regarding which pipe materials a property owner or builder used when constructing their home or business. The City of Weatherford uses information available to determine the service line material including information such as service records, year built, record drawings, and field investigations.

**What is being done to identify the remaining “unknown” service lines?**

As of October 2024, there were approximately 4,046 service lines categorized as “unknown”. The City of Weatherford will continue working to identify those service line materials through field investigations and routine maintenance. EPA regulations require that full identification of all service lines be completed by (December 31, 2034).

While the City of Weatherford is working to complete the full identification well in advance of the EPA deadline, customers are welcome to self-identify their service line material sooner. If customers would like to self-identify their service line material, they can follow the instructions/steps provided here:

<https://weatherfordtx.gov/DocumentCenter/View/23467/Identifying-Your-Service-Line-Material-Steps-PDF?bidId=>.

Alternatively, a customer may contact a licensed plumber to do this for them. If you do choose to self-identify, please submit your results on the Lead Service Line Questionnaire that is provided on the City of Weatherford website at

<https://weatherfordtx.gov/3543/Lead-Copper-Rule>.

## **When will the City of Weatherford finish replacing all the Lead and Galvanized Requiring Replacement service lines?**

The estimated completion date for replacement of all Lead and GRR service lines cannot be determined until the full inventory has been completed, including identification of all “unknown” service line materials. The EPA has mandated that all Lead and GRR service lines be replaced by (December 31, 2037), however, the City’s goal is to complete these replacements by October 2027.

## **If my service line is lead or galvanized requiring replacement, who will be responsible for the cost of replacement?**

The City of Weatherford is responsible for replacing the public portion of the service line, if replacement is required. Since the private service line is owned by the property owner, the property owner is responsible for the cost of replacement, if replacement of the private portion is required. However, the City of Weatherford is working on completing the service line inventory so that we can estimate the overall costs of replacement for both public and private portions. Once the service line inventory is complete, the City will evaluate what funding opportunities might be available to assist customers.

## **If I decide to replace my portion (the private side) of the service line now, do I need to notify the City of Weatherford?**

Yes, if you replace the private portion of a lead service line or GRR, then you should notify the City of Weatherford’s Water Utility. The City may be required to replace the public portion within 45 days of being notified.

## **If I decide to replace my portion (the private side) of the service line now, and the City decides at a later date to provide funding assistance for customers, will I be reimbursed?**

We do not currently have information regarding the availability of public funding for the replacement of private service lines. Consideration will likely not be made until after completion of the service line inventory, including identification of all “unknown” service lines.

## [Can I choose not to replace my service line? If I choose not to replace my service line, what happens?](#)

If your service line is lead or galvanized requiring replacement and it is not replaced as recommended, you risk exposure to lead in your drinking water and will continue to receive annual letters notifying you of the material of your service line and the adverse health effects of lead exposure until it is replaced. It is strongly recommended that you replace your service line if your service line is lead or galvanized requiring replacement. At this time, the City of Weatherford does not have an ordinance requiring that galvanized requiring replacement or lead service lines be replaced. However, the City is required to comply with EPA and TCEQ requirements, including annual notifications to customers.

## [What can someone do to reduce their exposure to lead?](#)

Below are recommended actions that you may take, separately or in combination, if you are concerned about the possibility of lead in your drinking water. The list is not intended to be a complete list or to imply that all actions equally reduce lead from drinking water.

- **Use your filter 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, see EPA's [tool to identify certified filters](#), and EPA's [fact sheet on home filtration](#).
- **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.
- **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.
- **Run your water.** The more time water has been sitting in your home's 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, the length and diameter of the service line and the amount of plumbing in your home.