

The Village of Western Springs cares about your health and the health of your family. Lead in drinking water can be harmful. For this reason, the Village of Western Springs Water Department plans to take the following steps to protect you and your family before, during, and after the partial replacement of the lead service lines on Clausen Avenue:

- Prior to service line replacement, the Water Department will visit each residence, confirm the service line material, and provide a sample bottle and instructions for lead/copper testing.
 - Directly following the switch to the new water main, a door hanger will be placed on your front door with flushing instructions and additional steps you can take to reduce lead in your drinking water.
 - Within 72 hours after the switch has been completed, the Water Department will follow up and collect an additional lead/copper sample.
 - Any additional follow-up sampling will be completed on an as needed basis.
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Partial Lead Service Line Replacement

In response to the Clausen Avenue water main replacement, the Village of Western Springs would like to provide the included information on lead service lines and lead in drinking water.



Why homeowners should comply with lead sampling?

Any disruption to a lead service line can elevate lead levels in drinking water for an unspecified amount of time. Knowledge is power. That being said, the Village of Western Springs would like to provide sampling prior to and directly following construction. With this information, the Village of Western Springs Water Department can assist homeowners with further lead remediation techniques, if needed, following construction.

All samples collected will be analyzed by a third party laboratory, Suburban Labs, and results will be made available for homeowners within 3 days of receipt. If additional sampling is required, the Water Department will contact homeowners directly.

Sampling is fairly easy and convenient, requiring homeowners to collect a “first catch,” one liter sample following a six hour period of no water. The Water Department would provide step-by-step instructions, drop off and pick up the water samples, and provide the results in a timely manner to homeowners via mail.

How can homeowners reduce their lead exposure?

There are steps that you can take to protect yourself and your family from lead in tap water.

1. Replace the lead service line.
2. You can reduce the risk of lead in tap water by flushing your home plumbing before consuming water. The longer water has been sitting in your home’s pipes, the more lead it may contain. Plumbing fixtures like faucets, valves and solder can contain small amounts of lead, so flushing can help reduce lead exposure.
3. You can purchase a home/faucet treatment device to reduce your exposure to lead, but you should make sure it is independently certified for that purpose and properly maintained.
4. Make sure plumbing products contain the lowest possible levels of lead by purchasing replacement plumbing products that have been tested and certified to the new “lead-free” standards, as of 2014.

Flush, Flush, Flush

Partial lead service line replacement can elevate lead levels in drinking water for several weeks to a month following disruption. In an effort to help you and your family reduce your lead exposure, the Village of Western Springs Water Department will provide extensive instructions for the days and weeks following construction. Flushing will be an imperative function of reducing lead exposure. Municipal Services, the Water Department, and the Village Website will be resources for effective flushing techniques, lead FAQs, and other questions and concerns.

Contact Us

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