

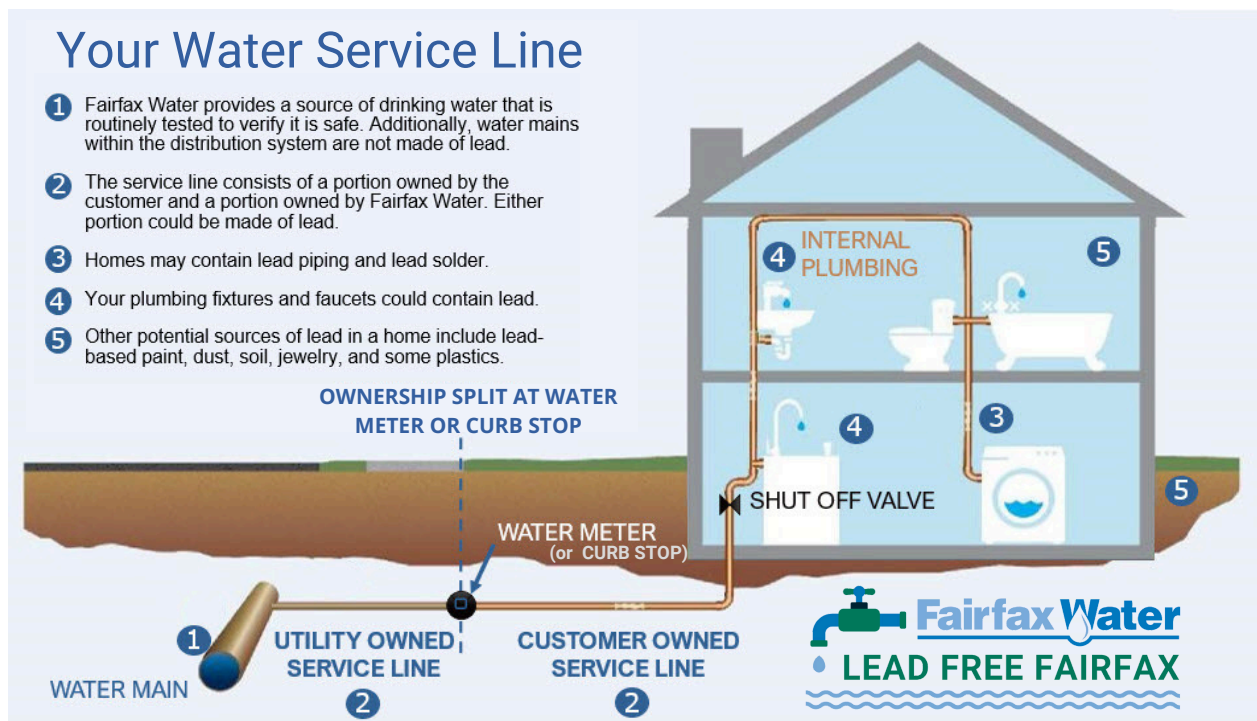
## Consumer Guide to Lead Safety in Drinking Water

Fairfax Water is committed to providing safe drinking water to our customers, and that means being proactive in adhering to the requirements of the EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR). At Fairfax Water, we have a long history of proactively protecting our customers from lead. Because of this, the drinking water we produce is well below the maximum lead levels set forth by the EPA.

To maintain excellent water quality, Fairfax Water is implementing the **Lead Free Fairfax** program to educate customers on the rule, how lead exposure can affect your health, and how to reduce lead exposure at home.

### How can I be exposed to lead?

Lead is a naturally occurring material that has been used in many residential and industrial settings. Therefore, there is a risk that we may be exposed to it at work or at home. Previously, lead was thought of as a good material for water pipes due to its soft nature and flexibility. Because of this historical practice, some homes may have water service lines, plumbing, kitchen fixtures, or bathroom fixtures that contain lead. Other potential sources of lead include lead-based paint, dust, jewelry, and some plastics. The graphic below shows where these sources of lead may be in your home.



### How can lead exposure affect my health?

Anyone can experience adverse health effects from lead exposure, but infants and children are at the greatest risk. Potential health impacts to infants and children include decreases in IQ and attention span, as well as the development or worsening of learning and behavioral problems. Those who are exposed as children may also face problems with decreased bone and tissue growth, as well as anemia. The children of women who have been exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can experience these same health effects.

While adults are less at risk for adverse health effects than children, lead exposure may still be harmful. Adults who are exposed to lead can have increased risks of high blood pressure, heart disease, and nervous system or kidney disorders. Lead exposure in adults has also been linked to dysfunction in the digestive and reproductive systems.



## How can I reduce my lead exposure at home?

There are several ways that you can mitigate your family's lead exposure within your home:

### Check your plumbing

- Verify that all faucets and fixtures in your home are lead-free.
- Clean out your faucet aerators regularly. After removing the aerator, flush the tap with cold water for 5 minutes.
- Know your service line material. Take our online survey to identify and report your service line material. Grab your smartphone, head to the water shut-off valve inside your home, and scan the QR code to identify your service line material and complete the survey. You can also visit [fairfaxwater.org/leadfree](https://fairfaxwater.org/leadfree) or call us at the number below.



### Use cold water for drinking & food prep

Always use cold tap water for drinking and preparing food. Lead may settle and concentrate in hot water tanks. Hot water is more likely to dissolve lead from solder and brass fittings.

### Flush your taps

Run the water from infrequently used taps for at least 5 minutes prior to cooking with it or drinking it if the water has gone unused for more than 6 hours. This will prevent consuming water that has sat exposed to any lead. If you have a known lead service line and your house is set far from the street, you may need to flush longer. You may choose to use the water from this initial flush to water plants or to wash dishes.

### If you have reason to believe your plumbing may contain lead...

- You can request a lead test kit from Fairfax Water by calling 703.698.5800 (TTY 711). Once your request is processed by Customer Service and Fairfax Water's water quality lab, you will be sent a sampling kit with instructions on how to take the sample and return it for testing. It costs \$40 for the first lead sampling kit, and \$20 for every following kit.
- You can use a NSF 53 certified water filter.

## What steps are being taken by Fairfax Water?

Fairfax Water is taking several proactive steps to mitigate customers' exposure to lead in drinking water. Fairfax Water is updating its inventory of service line materials and working to identify any lead service lines within its water system. Additionally, Fairfax Water uses corrosion control treatments to prevent lead from leaching into water. Historically, lead in our system has tested well below the maximum lead levels set forth by the EPA.

***THIS CONTAINS VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER. PLEASE TRANSLATE IT OR SPEAK WITH SOMEONE WHO UNDERSTANDS IT. IF YOU ARE A LANDLORD, PLEASE SHARE A COPY OF THIS REPORT WITH YOUR TENANTS.***

***CONTIENE INFORMACIÓN MUY IMPORTANTE SOBRE SU AGUA POTABLE. TRADÚCELO O HABLA CON ALGUIEN QUE LO ENTIENDA. SI ES PROPIETARIO, COMPARTA UNA COPIA DE ESTE INFORME CON SUS INQUILINOS.***

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703-698-5800 (TTY 711)



[fairfaxwater.org/leadfree](https://fairfaxwater.org/leadfree)