

## Lead Service Line Inventory & Replacement Program

### **Lead Service Line Inventory and Replacement (LSL) Program**

In December 2021, the Biden-Harris Administration released a briefing pledging to identify and remove lead infrastructure, including water service lines:

*“Today, the Biden-Harris Administration is releasing its Lead Pipe and Paint Action Plan. The plan represents a historic effort of unprecedented ambition that will deploy catalytic resources from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law while leveraging every tool across federal, state, and local government to deliver clean drinking water, replace lead pipes, and remediate lead paint. The plan includes over 15 new actions from more than 10 federal agencies that ensure the federal government is marshalling every resource to make rapid progress towards replacing all lead pipes in the next decade.”*

Source: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/12/16/fact-sheet-the-biden-harris-lead-pipe-and-paint-action-plan/>

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) then developed and established Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) 40 CFR §141.84, a set of regulations which governs, amongst other tasks, the collection of water service line material data and guidelines for planning public lead service line removal. The North Chelmsford Water District must abide by these regulations and compile water service line data to determine whether any lines contain lead or galvanized materials; if so, a replacement plan must accompany the inventory submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (Mass DEP) by October 16, 2024.

Since the installation of lead pipes was banned in June 1986, properties built prior to 1987 without reliable records indicating that lead lines were replaced or never installed must be investigated. Inspections inside the property’s water meter area (usually in the basement) will begin on March 1, 2023, and inspections for the District’s service lines (which run from the street to the sidewalk) will begin during the warmer months when the ground is no longer frozen. A representative must be on site for inspections inside properties to allow District staff into the water meter area, so please contact the office to schedule an appointment (appointments should take no longer than 30 minutes). Inspections as part of this program are FREE and will not interrupt your water service. Once the District has collected service line data for all relevant properties, you will receive a notice regarding the composition of your service line within 30 days.

### **Lead Exposure**

If your water service or internal plumbing contains lead or galvanized materials, it is highly recommended that you replace it, as lead exposure via drinking water can negatively impact health across all age groups. Children of women exposed to lead before or during pregnancy and infants and children directly exposed to lead can experience decreases in IQ and attention span and new or exacerbated learning and behavioral problems; adults may experience increased risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, and kidney or nervous system problems.

Although the District maintains an effective corrosion control program (which inhibits lead from leaching into the water) and has no statistical data that demonstrates a high concentration of lead in your water, you may opt to take the following precautions to reduce lead exposure:

1. 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.
2. Do not boil water to remove lead!
3. Schedule an evaluation with your plumber to determine whether your internal plumbing contains lead; if it does, have it removed.
4. Schedule an appointment with the District to let our staff determine your service line's material leading up to your water meter.

**Additional Resources:**

40 CFR §141.84: <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-40/chapter-I/subchapter-D/part-141/subpart-I>

Lead Exposure via Drinking Water: <https://www.mass.gov/lead-in-drinking-water>

Lead Exposure by Multiple Methods: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/massdep-lead-information>

LSL Infographic: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/lcrr-lead-service-line-inventories-an-infographic/download>

Mass. Lead Water Testing: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/find-a-certified-laboratory-for-water-testing>

Mass DEP Drinking Water Program Contact: (617) 292-5770 or [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov)