

CITY OF YOUNGSTOWN

FLUSHING INSTRUCTIONS GUIDANCE LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT



A service line is a pipe that runs between the system's water main and a building inlet. A service line may be owned by the system, the property owner, or both. There are two types of lead service line replacement (LSLR):

- (1) Full LSLR = when there is no longer any lead pipe or material in the service line upon completion of the work.
- (2) Partial LSLR = when there is still lead pipe or material remaining in the service line upon completion of the work

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 worsen existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these negative health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, and kidney, or nervous system problems

Learn what your service line material is. Contact us at 330-742-8769 or Leadsurvey@youngstownohio.gov or a licensed plumber to determine if the pipe that connects your home to the water main (called a service line) is made from lead, galvanized, or other materials. To find out about what we are doing to replace lead service lines, please visit https://youngstownohio.gov/water_lead. [Protect Your Tap: A quick check for lead](#)



Instructions For Flushing Immediately After LSLR

1. Turn on an outside faucet of your home/building and leave it running at the highest rate possible. Flushing should continue for at least ten minutes (longer if there is visible appearance of particulates or other matter within the water being flushed). Be sure to safely direct water away from your home. *The system or contractor may have indicated they completed this step.*
2. Locate all faucets, laundry tubs, sinks, bathtubs, showers, and hose bibs that have a proper drain. Remove all screens and aerators, including showerheads, and make sure all drains are clear. Fully extend flexible faucets for flushing.
3. Turn off or bypass any water softener or filtration system to allow for maximum flow.
4. Turn on the cold-water faucets in the basement (or lowest floor). Leave all faucets running at the highest rate.
5. Turn on the cold-water faucets on the next highest floor. Continue until all faucets are running on all floors.
6. Record the order in which the faucets were turned on.
7. Leave water running for at least 30 minutes.

8. Turn off the faucets in the same order they were turned on.
9. Clean or replace the faucet aerators and screens before you re-attach. Separate the individual parts and, if necessary, soak them in white vinegar for a few minutes and scrub with a brush.
10. Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula. Do not cook with, drink water or make baby formula from the hot water tap. Hot water dissolves lead more quickly than cold water. If you need hot water, draw water from the cold tap and then heat it.
11. Replace plumbing fixtures containing lead. If your home/building was constructed prior to 1987, it is also important to determine if interior lead solder or lead pipes are present. You can check yourself, hire a licensed plumber, or check with your landlord. Replace brass faucets, fittings, and valves that do not meet the current definition of “lead free.” The current definition went into effect January 4, 2014; therefore, any “lead free” plumbing materials purchased and/or installed prior to that date should be discarded or replaced. Visit the NSF website at www.nsf.org to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures.
12. You may consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter during the 6-months following LSLR, or longer if there is confirmed or suspected lead-containing materials (e.g. interior lead plumbing or lead solder) in your home or building. Be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or www.nsf.org for information on water filter performance standards. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommendations.
13. Proper maintenance of water softeners. Not properly maintaining your water softener could have a negative impact on the corrosivity of the water in your home/building. Water softeners and reverse osmosis units will remove lead from water but can also make the water more corrosive to lead solder and plumbing by removing certain minerals; therefore, the installation of these treatment units at the point of entry with lead plumbing should only be done under supervision of a qualified water treatment professional.
14. Cleaning of the aerators and screens and continue to flush. After six months from the LSLR, it is recommended to clean the debris from aerators and screens at least twice a year and regularly flush a tap after the water has remained stagnant for 6 hours or more..

RESOURCES

- AWWA STANDARDS C810-17 "Replacement and Flushing of Lead Service Lines"
- The Environmental Protection Agency’s Lead website at www.epa.gov/lead
- The National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD (5323)
- The Safe Drinking Water Act hotline at 800-426-4791
- Lead Service Line Collaborative's website at <https://www.lslr-collaborative.org>
- Contact your health care provider for any medical concerns.