

As of October 16, 2024, public water systems are required to comply with new regulations under the 2021 Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR). These regulations are part of ongoing efforts to reduce lead exposure from drinking water, improve public health, and ensure safe drinking water for everyone. Below are some frequently asked questions to help you understand these new requirements and how they may affect your water service.

Q: What is the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR)?

A: The Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) is a regulation set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to limit the levels of lead and copper in drinking water. These metals can enter drinking water from service lines and household plumbing and can pose serious health risks, particularly to young children and pregnant women.

Q: What are the new requirements of the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR)?

A: The new requirements under the LCRR, which take effect on October 16, 2024, include:

1. Initial Service Line Inventory: Public water systems must create an inventory of all service lines connected to their system, indicating which lines contain lead or are of unknown material.
2. Notification to Customers: If your home or building is connected to a known or potential lead service line, we are required to notify you.
3. Tier 1 Public Notification: If a water system exceeds the EPA's action level for lead (15 parts per billion), we are required to notify customers within 24 hours, and immediate action will be taken to address the issue.
4. Reporting Requirements: Public water systems must submit regular reports to the state and EPA, providing updates on lead service line inventories and lead testing results.

Q: How will I know if my home has a lead service line?

A: As part of the new requirements, we have completed an inventory of all service lines in our system. If your home or building is connected to a lead service line or a line of unknown material, we will notify you directly. You will receive information about the service line material, how to reduce your exposure to lead, and what steps we are taking to remove or replace lead service lines.

Q: What should I do if I receive a notification about a lead service line?

A: If you receive a notification that your home is served by a lead service line or a line of unknown material, you can take several steps to reduce lead exposure:

- Use a water filter certified to remove lead. Make sure to use a water filter that is NSF-certified to remove lead. These are often labeled as meeting “NSF/ANSI Standard 53” or “NSF/ANSI Standard 42.”
 - Flush your pipes by running water for at least 3-5 minutes before using it for drinking or cooking, especially if the water has been sitting in pipes for several hours.
 - Use cold water for drinking and cooking. Hot water is more likely to contain higher levels of lead.
 - Replace plumbing fixtures that may contain lead, such as faucets and pipes.
 - Consider replacing your portion of the lead service line if your home has one.
- Contact us for more information on our lead service line replacement program.

Q: What happens if lead levels in the water exceed the EPA’s action level?

A. If lead levels exceed 15 parts per billion, this is known as an "action level exceedance." In this case, we will:

- Notify affected customers within 24 hours.
- Provide information on steps to reduce exposure immediately, such as using certified water filters and running cold water before use.
- Work with state and federal authorities to conduct additional testing and implement corrective measures to reduce lead levels.

Q: What can I do to protect my family from lead in drinking water?

A: There are several things you can do to minimize lead exposure:

1. Test your water: You can request a lead test from your water utility to check lead levels in your home.
2. Use water filters: Make sure to use a water filter that is NSF-certified to remove lead. These are often labeled as meeting “NSF/ANSI Standard 53” or “NSF/ANSI Standard 42.”
3. Flush your pipes: Run cold water for a few minutes before drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, especially if the water has not been used for several hours.
4. Replace plumbing components: If your home has older pipes or fixtures, consider replacing them with lead-free options.
5. Stay informed: Pay attention to updates from your water utility about service line inventories, testing results, and any actions we are taking to reduce lead exposure.

Q: Will the water utility be replacing lead service lines?

A: Yes, as part of the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions, water utilities are required to replace lead service lines over time. We are prioritizing high-risk areas and will keep

customers informed of replacement schedules. In some cases, customers may be responsible for replacing their portion of the lead service line on their property. Contact us for more information about our lead service line replacement program and potential funding or assistance options.

Q: How can I learn more about lead in drinking water and the new regulations?

A: We encourage you to visit the following resources for more information:

- EPA's Lead and Copper Rule: [EPA Lead and Copper Rule website](<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/revise-lead-and-copper-rule>)
- CDC Information on Lead Exposure: [CDC Lead Information](<https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/prevention/sources/water.htm>)
- Contact Us: Reach out to our customer service team if you have questions about your water service or lead testing. We are here to help!

Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at:

- Customer Service: 401-729-9050
- Engineering: 401-729-5015
- Project Manager: 401-729-5002
- Email: kpeters@pwsb.org
- Website: <https://www.pwsb.org/lead/>

We are committed to providing you with safe, reliable drinking water and keeping you informed every step of the way. Thank you for your cooperation as we work together to reduce lead exposure in our community.