

Failure to Develop Initial Inventory and Make Publicly Accessible

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The City of St. Marys failed to complete and submit in time an Initial Service Line Inventory

Our water system recently violated a drinking water requirement. As our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did (are doing) to correct this situation.

We were required to develop and make publicly available an initial inventory of service lines connected to our distribution system by October 16, 2024. Our system failed to submit this initial inventory of service lines to the OHEPA (Ohio Environmental Protection Agency) by October 16, 2024. On June 11, 2025, we submitted the inventory for review to the OHEPA in an effort to reverse the violation. The inventory must identify the service line materials as galvanized requiring replacement (GRR)¹lead-status unknown/unknown, or non-lead. Identifying and ultimately removing lead and GRR service lines is an important way to protect public health.

On October 11, 2024, we sent surveys to all residents served by our system, asking them to identify the materials of their service lines. Responses could be submitted online or dropped off at 503 S. Wayne Street. For those who have yet to complete this survey, there is a potential that your service line may be made of galvanized, lead, or contain lead material, or an unknown service line. People living in homes with service lines that contain or are made of lead have an increased risk of exposure to lead from their drinking water.

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

What should I do?

Listed below are some steps you can take to reduce your exposure to lead:

- **Find out what type of service line material is in your home.** If you haven't already done so, please take a moment to complete a brief five-minute survey to identify your service line material. You can pick up surveys at 503 S. Wayne St. or access them soon on the City of St. Marys main homepage at www.cityofstmarys.net.

If you have any questions about our efforts to replace lead service lines or require further assistance, please contact us at 419-394-4114 or email us at lhowell@cityofstmarys.net.

- Protect Your Tap: A Quick Check for Lead is the EPA's online step-by-step guide to learn how to find lead pipes in your home (www.epa.gov/pyt).
- **Learn about construction in your neighborhood.** Unless your service line is not made of lead or galvanized, you should be aware of any nearby construction or maintenance work that could disturb the line. Ground tremors from construction may suddenly cause more lead to be released from lead or galvanized service lines in the area.
- **Use your filter properly.** Using a filter can reduce lead in drinking water. If you use a filter, ensure it is certified to remove lead. Read the directions to learn how to properly install and use your cartridge, as

¹ A galvanized requiring replacement service line is a galvanized service line that is or was potentially downstream of a lead service line.

well as when to replace it. Using the cartridge after it has expired can reduce its effectiveness in removing lead. Do not run hot water through the filter.

- **Clean your aerator.** Regularly remove and clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator). Sediment, debris, and lead particles can collect in your aerator. If lead particles are caught in the aerator, lead can get into your water.
- **Use cold water.** Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Remember, boiling water does not remove lead from water.
- **Run your water.** The more time water has been sitting in pipes, the more lead it may contain. Before drinking, flush your home's pipes by running the tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or doing a load of dishes. The amount of time to run the water will depend on whether your home has a lead service line or not, and the length of the lead service line. Residents should contact their water utility for recommendations about flushing times in their community.
- **Have your water tested.** Contact your water utility to have your water tested and to learn more about the lead levels in your drinking water.

What does this mean?

Service line inventories are the foundation from which water systems take action to address a significant source of lead in drinking water. Establishing an inventory of service line materials and identifying the location of lead and GRR service lines is a key step in getting them replaced and protecting public health. Typically, lead enters water supplies by leaching from lead pipes, brass faucets, plumbing with leaded solder, and other plumbing components containing lead. In homes with lead pipes that connect the home to the water main, also known as "lead service lines", these pipes are typically the most significant source of lead in the water. Lead pipes are more commonly found in older cities and homes built before 1986. Service lines made of galvanized iron or steel that are (or were previously) downstream of lead service lines are classified as galvanized requiring replacement (GRR) because galvanized service lines that are or ever were downstream from an LSL can adsorb lead and contribute to lead in drinking water. Identifying and ultimately removing lead and GRR service lines is an important way to protect public health.

What is being done?

The City of St. Marys is actively working to identify all unknown service lines within the system. This information will be recorded in a database that will be made publicly accessible. We are committed to resolving the violation as quickly and accurately as possible.

We kindly ask anyone who has not yet completed the survey identifying their service line material to do so. Our staff is available to assist you at home with this process. With your help, we can ensure the safety of your drinking water for you and your family.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/lead> or contact your healthcare provider.

For more information, please contact Lonnie Howell at 419-394-4114 or email lhowell@cityofstmarys.net.

**Please share this information with all individuals who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (e.g., residents of apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

This notice is being sent to you by the City of St. Marys. Public Water System ID#: **OH0600612**

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