

HELP US PUT AN

# END *To* LEAD



MOHAWK VALLEY  
WATER AUTHORITY

Quality water... for life.

The **Mohawk Valley Water Authority** is working to identify lead service lines in pre-1940's homes to help protect the health of our customers.

## FREE LEAD TESTING

to help identify lead service lines in pre-1940's homes.

We encourage residents of pre-1940's homes to contact the **Water Quality Department** at **315-792-0338** to take advantage of free testing in our certified laboratory.

Sometimes lead is present in the pipes or fixtures in older homes. This lead, which can leach into the water due to pipe corrosion, can have particularly negative health impacts on pregnant women and young children.

There are about 2,500 lead or partial lead service lines in our service area and we would like your help to identify these pipes and remove them.

### Here's how you can help:

- **Identify the type of service line in your home.**
- **Get your water tested for free.**
- **If your water has elevated lead levels, replace your line.** Any lead is too much. Service lines up to the curb stop are owned by MVWA; the remaining line is owned by the property owner. MVWA will cover the cost of replacing lead pipes under its ownership as soon as the owners' portion is replaced. If you have lead pipes in your home, we will work with you to replace the full-service line or lead portions.
- **A certified, experienced plumber can also help you eliminate the source of lead.**

Quality water... for life.

For more information,  
visit [www.mvwa.us](http://www.mvwa.us)





# Frequently Asked Questions



plastic

## How do I identify a lead service line in my home?

Testing the pipes in your home to determine if they are lead is simple and requires only two common items: a flathead screwdriver and a magnet.

1. Start by locating the water service line in your home. It is attached to your water meter and typically found in the basement or crawl space. You should test the pipe that is between where the water line enters the basement wall and the water meter. Do not test the portion of the pipe on the other side of the meter, located away from the wall. If your pipes are made of rigid plastic, you do not need to test them. Please contact the **Water Quality Department** at **315-792-0338** to let them know that your pipes are made of plastic.
2. If your pipes are made of strong, good quality metal, using your screwdriver, scrape an exposed section of the pipe. (The pipe may be covered or wrapped; if so, peel away a small piece.) If scraping the pipe reveals:
  - a. A shiny "new penny" color, your pipe is copper.
  - b. A silver/white color, place a magnet on the pipe. If it sticks, your pipe is galvanized steel.
  - c. A silver/white color and the magnet does not stick, your pipe is lead.
3. Contact the **Water Quality Department** at **315-792-0338** to report the results of your test, as this is important information that needs to be recorded. It's estimated that there are about 2,500 lead or partial lead services in our area. By letting us know what your home's pipes are made of, you're helping MVWA put an end to lead.
4. If your pipe appears to be lead, the MVWA will take a water sample at your home and test it for free in our certified laboratory.



copper



steel



lead



## How does lead get into drinking water in my house?

Sometimes lead is present in the pipes or fixtures in older homes. This lead, which can leach into the water due to pipe corrosion, can have particularly negative health impacts on pregnant women and young children.



## How do I know whether water at my house contains lead?

Lead is colorless and tasteless. The only way to know for certain if lead is present is to test your water. Contact our **Water Quality Department** at **315-792-0338** and MVWA will test your water for free.



## How much lead is too much in my house?

Any lead is too much. Lead can be harmful at very low levels, particularly in households with pregnant women, infants or young children.



## How can the Mohawk Valley Water Authority help me protect my household from lead?

The best way to assure your home is safe from lead exposure is to remove lead pipes from your home.

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For more information, visit [www.mvwa.us](http://www.mvwa.us)  
or call **315-792-0301**