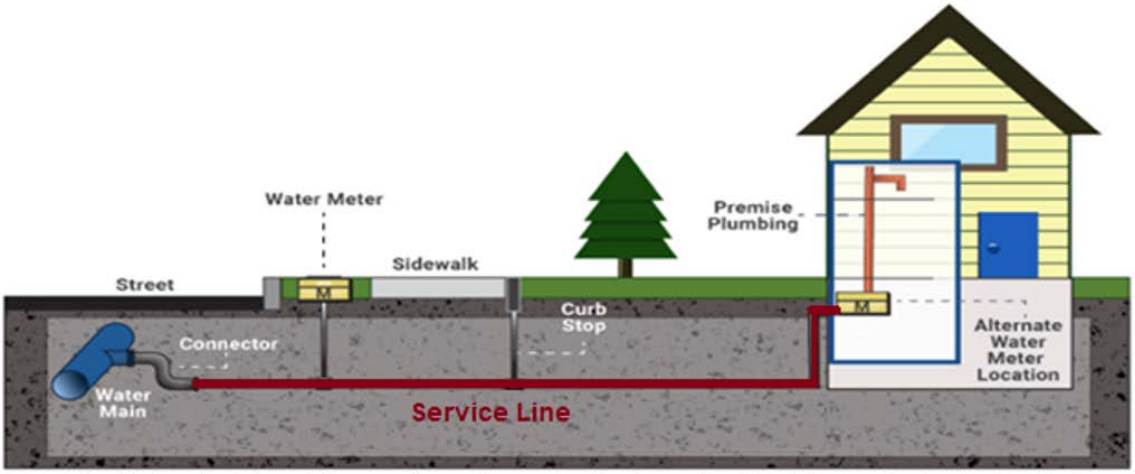
IMPORTANT INFORMATION: YOUR DRINKING WATER SERVICE LINE HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS LEAD

The City of Olean Water Division has identified that a part of or the entire length of the service line that delivers drinking water to your house/building is made of lead.

What is a Lead Service Line?

A service line is the pipe connecting the water main to the building inlet. A typical configuration of a service line is shown here. The City of Olean Water Division is responsible for the service line from the main up to and including the curb stop. You, as the customer, are responsible for the service line from the curb stop into the building. When any section of the service line is made of lead, it is a lead service line.



Example of a Service Line. If any section of the service line is made of lead, the service line is classified as a lead service line.

What Does It Mean?

Having a lead service line doesn't necessarily mean your drinking water contains an elevated level of lead. However, a lead service line has been identified as a source of lead and may contribute to lead in drinking water. This can happen when the characteristics of water (for example, low pH) increase the corrosion of lead pipes. Removing the lead service line is a sure way to reduce your chance of exposure to lead in drinking water.

Source of Lead in Drinking Water

Lead enters drinking water from a lead service line and indoor plumbing materials such as lead solder on copper pipes and chrome-plated brass or brass fixtures and faucets.

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

Steps You Can Take to Reduce Your Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water

- **Use your filter properly**. Using a filter can reduce lead in drinking water. If you use a filter, it should be certified to remove lead. Read any directions provided with the filter to learn how to properly install, maintain, and use your cartridge and when to replace it. Using the cartridge after it has expired can make it less effective at removing lead. Do not run hot water through the filter. For more information on facts and advice on home water filtration systems, visit EPA's website at https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/home-drinking-water-filtration-fact-sheet and EPA's Consumer Tool for Identifying Drinking Water Filters Certified to Reduce Lead https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2018-12/documents/consumer_tool_for_identifying_drinking_water_filters_certified_to_reduce_lead.pdf

- **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**. Do not use hot water from the tap for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula as lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Boiling water does not remove lead from water.

- **Run your water.** The more time water has been sitting in your home's 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, as well as the length and diameter of the service line and the amount of plumbing in your home. Residents may contact us at 716-376-5699 or water@cityofolean.org for recommendations about flushing times in the community.

- **Learn what your service line material is.** Contact us at 716-376-5699 or water@cityofolean.org 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 www.cityofolean.org or contact us at 716-376-5699 or water@cityofolean.org.

  Protect Your Tap: A quick check for lead https:\\www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/protect-your-tap-quick-check-lead-0 is EPA's on-line step by step guide to learn how to find lead pipes in your home.

- **Learn about construction in your neighborhood.** Contact us at 716-376-5699 or water@cityofolean.org to find out about any construction or maintenance work that could disturb your service line. Construction may cause more lead to be released from a lead service line if present.

- **Have your water tested.** Contact us at 716-376-5699 or water@cityofolean.org to have your water tested and to learn more about the lead levels in your drinking water.

Get Your Child Tested to Determine Lead Levels in their Blood

A family doctor or pediatrician can perform a blood test for lead and provide information about the health effects of lead. State, city, or county departments of health can also provide information about how you can have your child's blood tested for lead. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends public health actions when the level of lead in a child's blood is 3.5 micrograms per deciliter (µg/dL) or more. For more information and links to CDC's website, please visit https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water.

Opportunities to Replace Your Lead Service Line

We are required to replace the portion of a lead service line we own when property owners notify us that they are replacing their portion of the lead service line. Please contact us at 716-376-5699 or water@cityofolean.org before replacing your lead service line. We will be in contact with licensed plumbers as they replace your service line, as we have to inspect it, and will arrange to replace our portion of the service line if not immediately, as soon as possible.

At this time, we do not have funding options for homeowners, but we are working with other agencies in an attempt to find some funding. We will notify the public if and when we can secure some funding.

We are also responsible for maintaining an inventory of all service lines, so keep us updated if your service line changes.

If you have any questions about your service line, call us at 716-376-5699 or water@cityofolean.org. For more information on lead in drinking water, contact the local health department at the Cattaraugus County Building in Olean; 716-701-3599 and ask for Environmental Health.

This notice is brought to you by the **City of Olean Water Division**

State Water System ID# **NY0300345**

Date: **October 21, 2024**