

November 19, 2024

Dear Water Customer,

This notice is a requirement by the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) and it contains important information about your drinking water. Please share this information with anyone who drinks and /or cooks using water at this property.

The Schuyler Department of Utilities is focused on protecting the health of every household in our community by providing clean and safe drinking water. We have determined that a portion or all of the water pipe (called a service line) that connects your home or business to the water main is potentially made from lead. People living in homes with a lead service line may have an increased risk of exposure to lead from their drinking water.

### **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.

### **Sources of Lead in Drinking Water**

The main sources of lead exposure are lead-based paint, lead-contaminated dust or soil and some plumbing materials. When water is in contact for several hours with pipes (or service lines) or plumbing that contains lead, the lead may enter drinking water. Homes built before 1988 are more likely to have plumbing containing lead as Nebraska instituted a lead ban on July 1, 1988, mandating all pipe, pipe fittings, solder and flux installed by any public water systems be lead free.

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

- **Run your water to flush out lead.** If the tap hasn't been used for several hours, run water for 15-30 seconds to flush lead from interior plumbing or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature.
- **Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to cook, drink, or make baby formula.
- **Do not boil your drinking water.** Boiling water will not remove lead from water.
- **Clean your aerator.** Regularly remove and clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator). Sediment and debris including lead particles from lead service lines can collect in your aerator and dissolve back into your drinking water.
- **Filtration.** Using a filtration system can reduce lead in drinking water if it is certified to remove lead. Filters must be properly installed, maintained and replaced to ensure they remain effective at removing lead. For more information on home water filtration systems, visit EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/consumer-tool-identifying-point-use-and-pitches-filters-certified-reduce-lead>.
- **Use alternative sources of water.** You may want to consider using bottled water or an in-home water dispenser.

## **Lead Service Line Replacement**

The service line supplying water to the property is owned entirely by the property owner and it is the property owner's responsibility to replace it as needed. The Schuyler Department of Utilities does not own any portion of the service line.

If you want information about the replacement of the service line, you can contact the following licensed plumbers:

- Albers All Around: 402-276-6057
- Alex Legge Plumbing: 402-652-8702
- Howells Plumbing: 402-986-1036

If you have any other questions please contact the Schuyler Department of Utilities at 402-352-5444 during regular business hours. If you would like to view a translated copy of this notice in Spanish, please go to our website at <https://www.schuylerdou.org>.