

## **LEAD AWARENESS**

The City of Bedford is committed to providing their residents and businesses with safe and high quality drinking water. New and proposed Ohio EPA regulations are continuing to unfold and are focused on public notification and awareness, related to lead in our drinking water. This page is intended to educate our customers and provide additional helpful resources.

The most common sources of lead in drinking water are lead pipes, faucets, and plumbing fixtures. Certain pipes that carry drinking water from the water source to the home may contain lead. Household plumbing fixtures, welding solder, and pipe fittings made prior to 1986 may also contain lead.

## **OUR EFFORTS**

The City of Bedford replaces all city owned service lines made from lead during water main replacement projects and emergency repairs. You will receive a [Type 2 Event Notification](#) when this is done.

The City of Bedford conducts water lead level testing in accordance with the Ohio EPA – customers may view the results in the annual Water Quality Report.

Before water enters our Distribution System, Cleveland Water adds orthophosphate at the end of the drinking water treatment process. Orthophosphate inhibits the water from coming into contact with metal pipes. Orthophosphate forms a protective coating inside water pipes, service lines and your home's plumbing. This prevents water from coming in contact with the pipe material, reducing the likelihood of lead being dissolved into the water supply. The U.S. EPA considers orthophosphate the best treatment technique for preventing lead from leaching into water.

The City of Bedford will offer customers a 90 day water pitcher for filtering lead from drinking faucets when a known customer owned lead line is disturbed during repairs.

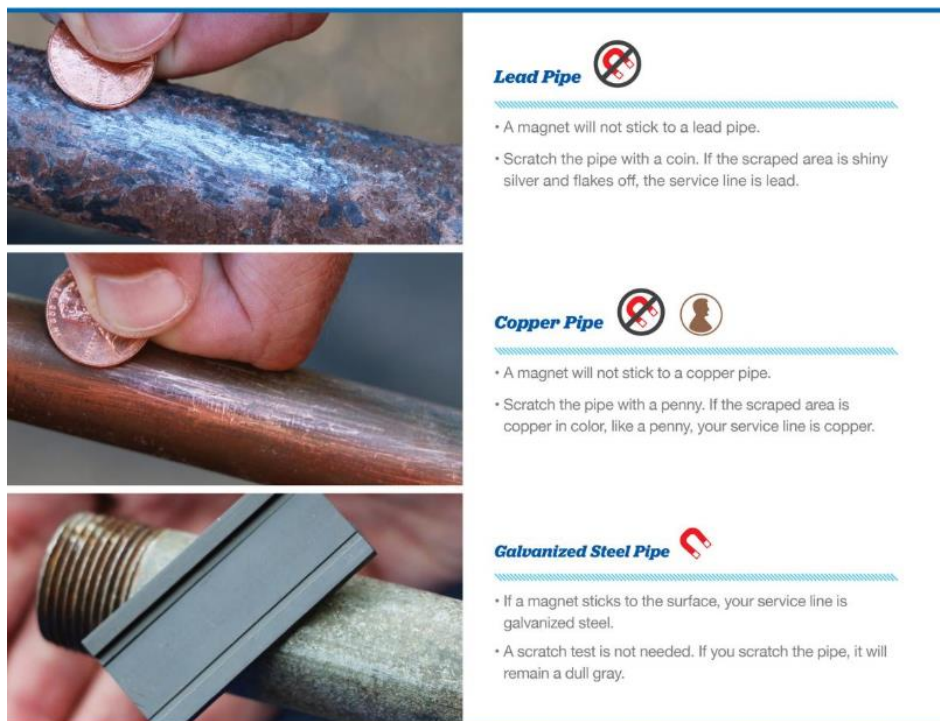
## **HOW TO ENSURE WATER QUALITY**

As a standard practice the USEPA recommends the few following actions to reduce possible lead exposure in drinking water. In some situations, a water system repair/replacement may temporarily increase lead levels in water and/or cause discoloration. Below are steps you can take to reduce lead in drinking water:


- FLUSH – Before drinking, flush your homes pipes by running the tap for 30 seconds to 3 minutes, taking shower, doing laundry, or running a dishwasher load.
- CLEAN – Regularly clean your faucets screen (also known as an aerator)
- CONSUME COLD – Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from drinking water.

## WHAT MATERIAL IS MY SERVICE LINE?


Identification of the type of material used for service lines and in home plumbing can be done using a magnet and a penny. Your service line material should be test where the line enters the home, which typically is typically in the basement before the water meter. Below is a helpful diagram:




The diagram consists of three rows, each with a photograph on the left and text on the right. The first row shows a hand using a penny to scratch a dark, rusted pipe. The second row shows a hand using a penny to scratch a reddish-brown pipe. The third row shows a hand using a magnet to test a grey pipe.

**Lead Pipe** 

- A magnet will not stick to a lead pipe.
- Scratch the pipe with a coin. If the scraped area is shiny silver and flakes off, the service line is lead.

**Copper Pipe** 

- A magnet will not stick to a copper pipe.
- Scratch the pipe with a penny. If the scraped area is copper in color, like a penny, your service line is copper.

**Galvanized Steel Pipe** 

- If a magnet sticks to the surface, your service line is galvanized steel.
- A scratch test is not needed. If you scratch the pipe, it will remain a dull gray.

Volunteer your home – The City of Bedford is looking to expand their number of Tier 1 sampling sites. Your home may be eligible to be added to our list of Lead and Copper Compliance Monitoring water sample sites. To have your home added, call (440) 735-6588

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Ohio EPA Lead Information](#)

[USEPA – Protect Your Family](#)

[CDC -Lead in Drinking Water](#)

\*Please contact John Sokolowski – Water Superintendent at (440) 735-6588 with any further questions.