



# Water & Sewer Utility

CITY OF VENTNOR CITY, N.J. 08406

Dear Resident,

Mayor Holtzman, Commissioner Kriebel and Commission Landgraf are providing this letter to you to assure you that your drinking water is safe and meets the limits set for drinking water as per the Federal and State Safe Drinking Water Act (FSSDWA). The FSSDWA sets the lead limit of 15 parts per billion (ppb) in public water systems. Over the last 20 years our test results have ranged from no detection to a historical high of 3 ppb. The last several years have shown results with less than 2 ppb. We are well below the threshold of 15 ppb. We are required by the State of New Jersey to send to our residents that have lead or galvanized service lines the accompanying letter.


The State of New Jersey, NJ Statute P.L. 2021, Chapter 183 is now mandating the replacement of certain water service lines. The service lines that the State of New Jersey are mandating be replaced are lead pipe service lines and galvanized pipe service lines. Many of the City's services lines that were installed decades ago are galvanized pipe. Water service lines bring the drinking water into your home.

The enclosed letter will explain the water service line replacement program. The water service line replacement program will be done over a 10-year period. It will be done on a street by street basis.

Once again, the City of Ventnor Lead Level is well below the established drinking level limit of 15 parts per billion as set by the Federal & State Safe drinking Water Act.

If you have any concerns about your drinking water, please contact Ernie Gratz, Superintendent of Water & Wastewater at 609.823.7935.

  
Mayor Beth Holtzman

  
Commissioner Lance Landgraf

  
Commissioner Tim Kriebel



# Notice of Lead Service Line Material

June 2022

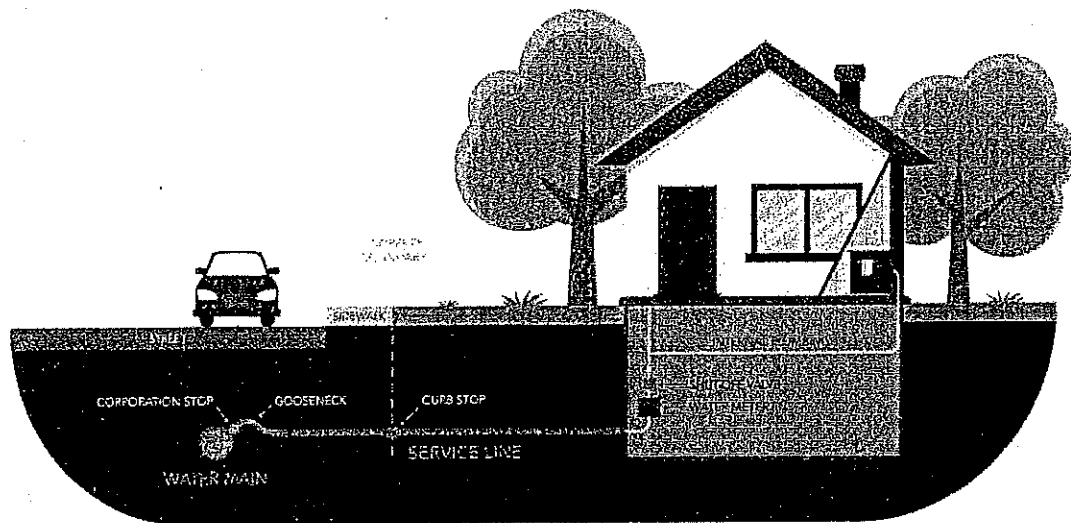
## Re: Lead Service Line Materials

In July 2021, P.L.2021, CH 183 (Law) was enacted, requiring all community water systems to replace lead water service lines in their services area within ten years. Under the law, The City of Ventnor Water System is required by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to notify customers, when it is known they are served by a lead service line.

**Note...Water services in City of Ventnor are galvanized lines however, under the Rule galvanized water lines are to be considered a lead service line.**

Our water line inventory is available at the City of Ventnor Website, [www.Ventnorcity.org](http://www.Ventnorcity.org). Our most recent service line inventory indicates that the above address has a galvanized service line.

A service line is the water supply pipe that connects the water main, (located most often in the public right of way), to the building.



The City of Ventnor owns the water service to the curb (water system side). The resident owns the water service from the curb to the building (customer side). The City of Ventnor has developed a lead service line replacement program and will be replacing the galvanized service line to the residential structure over the next ten (10) years. If you are planning to replace your galvanized pipe, (lead service line), contact us at 609.823.7935 prior to replacement, so that we can coordinate our efforts.

### **Health Effects of Lead**

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidney and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of the body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones, and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development. Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about lead exposure. You can find out more about how to get your child tested and how to pay for it at <https://www.state.nj.us/health/childhoodlead/testing.shtml>.

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

Although most lead exposure occurs from inhaling dust or from contaminated soil, or when children eat paint chips, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) estimates that 10 to 20 percent of human exposure to lead may come from drinking water. Infants who consume mostly mixed formula can receive 40 percent to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water. Lead is rarely found in the source of your drinking water but enters tap water through corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and household plumbing materials. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipes, brass, and chrome-based faucets, and in some cases, service lines made of or lined with lead.

New brass faucet, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free", may still contain a small percentage of lead, and contribute lead to drinking water. The law currently allows end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 0.25 percent lead to be labeled as "lead free". However, prior to January 4, 2014, "lead-free" allowed up to 8 percent lead content of the wetted surfaces of plumbing products including those labeled National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certified. Visit the NSF website at [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org) to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures. Consumers should be aware of this when choosing fixtures and take appropriate precautions.

When water stands in lead service lines, lead pipes, or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into your drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning, or later in the afternoon if the water has not been in use all day, can contain fairly high levels of lead.

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

For a full list of steps visit <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/dwc-lead-consumer.html>

1. **Run to cold water to flush out the lead.** Let the water run from the tap before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in the faucet has gone unused for more than six hours. The longer the water resides in the plumbing the more lead it may contain. Flushing the tap means running the cold-water faucet. Let the water run from the cold-water faucet tap based on the length of the lead service line and the plumbing configuration in your home. In other words, the larger the home or building and the greater the distance to the water main (in the street), the more water it will take to flush properly. Although toilet flushing or showering flushes water through a portion of the plumbing system, you still need to flush the water in each faucet before using it for drinking or cooking. Flushing tap water is a simple and inexpensive measure you can take to protect your health. It usually uses less than one gallon water.
2. **Use cold, flushed water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Because lead from lead-containing plumbing materials and pipes can dissolve into hot water more easily than cold water, never drink, cook, or prepare beverages including baby formula using hot water from the tap. If you have not had your water sampled or if you know, it is recommended that bottled water or filtered water to be used for drinking and prepared baby formula. If you need bottled water, draw water from the cold tap and then heat it.
3. **Do not use boiled water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead, however, it is still safe to wash dishware or clothes.
4. **Use alternative sources or treatment of water.** You may want to consider purchased bottled water or a water filter. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 800.NSF.8010 or [wwwq.nsf.org](http://wwwq.nsf.org) for information on performance standards for water filters.
5. **Determine if you have interior lead plumbing or solder.** If your home/building was constructed prior to 1987, it is important to determine if interior lead solder or lead pipes are present. You can check yourself, hire a plumber, or check with your landlord.
6. **Replace plumbing fixtures and service lines containing lead.** Replace brass faucets, fixtures, and valves that do not meet current definition of "lead-free" from 2014 (as explained above). Visit the NSF website at [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org) to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures. **If you plan on replacing your lead service line, contact the City of Ventnor Water Department at 609.823.7935.**
7. **Remove and clean aerators/screens on plumbing fixtures.** Over time, particles and sediment can collect in the aerator screen. Regularly remove and clean aerators screens located at the tip of faucets and remove any particles.
8. **Test your water for lead.** Call us at 609.823.7935 to find out how to get your water tested for lead. Testing is essential because you cannot see, taste, or smell lead in drinking water.
9. **Get your child tested.** Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how to get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about lead exposure. New Jersey law requires that children be tested for lead in their blood at both 1 and 2 years of age and before they are 6 years old if they have never been tested before or if they have been exposed to a known source of lead.

10. **Have an electrician check your wiring.** If grounding wires from the electrical system are attached to your pipes, corrosion may be greater. Check with a licensed electrician or your local electrical code to determine if your wiring can be grounded elsewhere. **DO NOT** attempt to change the wiring yourself because improper ground can cause electrical shock and fire hazards.

11. **Water softeners and reverse osmosis units** will remove lead from water but can also the water more corrosive to lead solder and plumbing by removing certain minerals; therefore, the installation of these treatment units at the point of entry into homes with lead plumbing should only be done under supervision of a qualified water treatment professional.

The owner or operator, (e.g., landlord), of a multi-unit dwelling, (e.g., apartment building), must distribute this information to every resident. Delivery of a hard copy of the notice must be done by hand, or mail, and by posting the information in a conspicuous location in the common area of each dwelling.

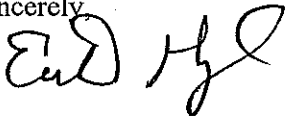
Please share this information with all other people who consume this water at this address provided by the City of Ventnor Water System, especially those who may not have received this notice directly, (for example, people in nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by City of Ventnor Water at 609.823.7935, [www.ventnorcity.org](http://www.ventnorcity.org)

**For More Information**

Call us at 609.823.7935 for more information on reducing lead. State Water System  
ID# NJ0122001

Sincerely,



Ernest Gratz  
City of Ventnor