

## Lead Service Lines

If you have a service line made of lead, lead might get into your drinking water.

Lead in drinking water can pose serious health risks. While lead is dangerous to people at any age, the most vulnerable people are pregnant women and children younger than 6 years old.

## Do I have a Lead Service Line?

A service line is the pipe that connects a home to the water main under the street. Homes built before 1986 are more likely to have a service line made of lead.

Lead pipes are a dull gray color, and when scratched leave behind a silver scratch-mark. You can find your service line where it enters the basement, connected to the water meter and the main water shutoff valve.

### 5 Tips to Protect Your Family from Lead

1. Before using tap water for drinking or cooking, run the cold water for 1–2 minutes.
2. Use cold water for drinking, cooking, and baby formula.
3. Use a water filter. National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) filters are certified to remove lead if they are marked with NSF/ANSI Standard 53 or 58 on the package. Replace internal filters as directed.
4. Feed your family a healthy diet rich in iron, calcium, and vitamin C. A full stomach slows the absorption of lead.
5. Schedule a blood lead test for your child. Blood lead tests are covered by insurance, and are required for children at 9–12 months, 2, 3, and 4 years old.

Call the City of Malden Engineering Department at 781-397-7040 or email [leadinfo@cityofmalden.org](mailto:leadinfo@cityofmalden.org)

- Ask them to test your drinking water for lead for free.
- Ask them for a free appointment to identify your service line material.

Or you can check your service line yourself. Scan the QR code below for instructions.

