WHAT IS BEING DONE?

The actions that we are taking are established by federal and state regulations pertaining to lead in drinking water. These include:

- Continued tap water sampling of designated homes and buildings.
- Public education information provided herein.
- On-going, planned removal of lead service lines throughout Aurora.
- We are working to determine which corrosion control treatment strategy would be most effective in addressing this situation. Corrosion control treatment at the treatment plant is intended to minimize pipe and plumbing components from corroding and leading to the possibility of lead dissolving into the water.
- Implementation of new corrosion control treatment will be completed as soon as possible upon receipt of regulatory approval.

HOW TO REQUEST REPLACEMENT OF YOUR LEAD OR GALVANIZED SERVICE LINE?

- Information about individual service line material is available at: **https://lead-service-cityofaurora.hub.arcgis.com**
- Within this inventory, a customer will be able to verify if their service is lead, galvanized requiring replacement (the city considers any galvanized line as requiring replacement, due to the suspected presence of lead connectors), whether their material is unknown (the city considers any unknown material as suspected lead, therefore requiring replacement), or if there are known lead connectors or connectors of unknown material (the city considers all of these to be lead requiring replacement).
- Should any customer wish to have further investigations completed if the service line is listed as "suspected lead" or "unknown", or disagrees with their listed service line material, the city can be contacted to complete such further investigations at: waterlines@aurora.il.us
- The city has a detailed service line replacement plan online, which can be viewed at: **aurora_il0894070_lead-line-replacement-plan_april2025.pdf**

Per the replacement plan, there are various opportunities currently to have a lead or galvanized service line replaced. Primarily in 2025 and years prior, the city has and will continue to replace a service line whenever a disturbance occurs. This includes disturbances due to maintenance activities, or other underground infrastructure improvements. The city will also schedule replacements if a test reveals a service line that has a reported lead concentration level in exceedance of the action level. Replacements for both categories are completed at no charge to the customer.

Should a customer with a lead or galvanized service line not meet either of the first two categories (disturbance or exceedance of the action level) there is yet another option for replacement. The customer, at their own cost, may replace the service line from the meter inside the property out to the curb stop. When notified of this planned occurrence, the city will provide a filtration device and will then schedule the replacement of the remainder of the service line from the curb stop to the watermain, at no cost to the customer. The city is required to complete this remaining portion of replacement within thirty days of notification of the completion of the customer replaced portion.

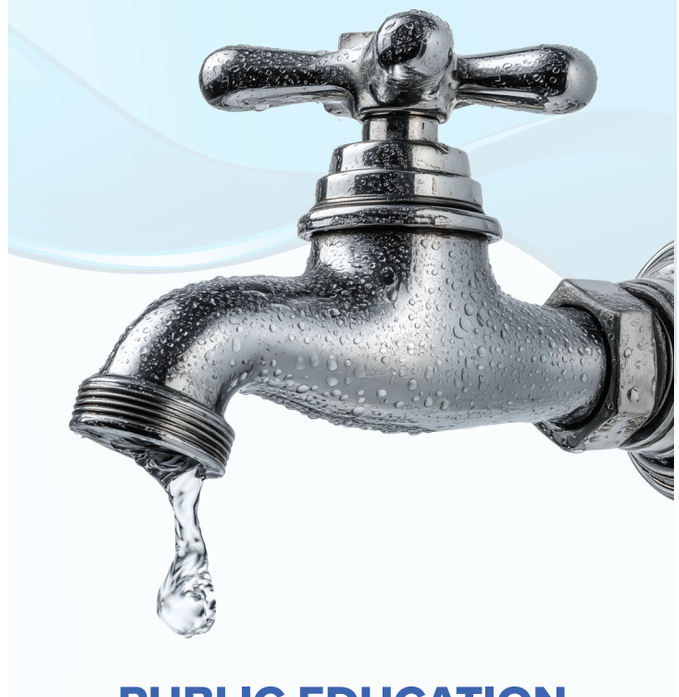
Beginning in 2026, the city will conduct all three of the aforementioned replacements and will also strategically add additional replacements to meet the requirement of replacing 3% of the system annually.

For more information about lead service lines: email waterlines@aurora.il.us or call 630-256-3200.

GENERAL INFORMATION ON LEAD

For more information, please contact the City of Aurora at 630-256-3200 or visit our website at Lead in Drinking Water | City of Aurora, IL. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at **https://www.epa.gov/lead** or contact your health care provider.

City of Aurora
City Hall
44 E. Downer Place
Aurora, IL 60507



PUBLIC EDUCATION LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

The City of Aurora Water System found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant people and young children. Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

CITY OF AURORA

HEALTH EFFECTS OF LEAD

There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula fed and breast fed), and young children. Some of the health effects to infants and children include decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can also result in new or worsened learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy may be at increased risk of these harmful health effects. Adults have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems. Contact your health care provider for more information about your risks.

The Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) for Lead is zero. The MCLG is defined as the level of a contaminant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. The MCLG allows for a margin of safety.

SOURCES OF LEAD

Lead is a common, naturally occurring metal found throughout the environment. Lead seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like rivers and lakes, and lead is rarely present in drinking water coming from a treatment plant. Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of corrosion or erosion of materials in the water distribution system and household plumbing that contain lead.

There is no detectable level of lead in the finished water pumped from the City of Aurora's Water Treatment Plant or the city's water distribution system. However, lead can dissolve into your drinking water if water sits for several hours in your plumbing fixtures or your service pipes that contain lead. Lead levels in drinking water are likely to be highest in homes with:

1. Lead service lines (pipes) connecting the water main in the street to your home.
2. Lead indoor plumbing.
3. Copper plumbing with lead solder.
4. Brass fixtures containing lead.

Lead levels vary from home to home and are dependent on lead sources between the water main in the street and an individual household tap. Pipe materials vary substantially across the city, even among homes located on the same block. The concentration of lead in drinking water varies among homes within the city. Homes built prior to 1986 are more likely to have lead pipes, fixtures, and solder.

Section 1417 of the Safe Drinking Water Act, enacted in 1986 and revised in 2011, defined lead-free as any solder or flux with a lead content not exceeding 0.2%, and pipes, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings, and fixtures with a weighted average lead content not exceeding 0.25% on wetted surfaces. Materials not meeting these standards are prohibited.

Keep in mind that drinking water is not the only potential source of lead exposure, since lead can be found in air, soil, and paint. For more information on all sources of lead, visit: **https://www.epa.gov/lead.**

STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO REDUCE YOUR EXPOSURE TO LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

Below are recommended actions that you may take, separately or in combination, if you are concerned about lead in your drinking water. The list also includes where you may find more information and is not intended to be a complete list or to imply that all actions equally reduce lead from 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 by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier. 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 at **https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-06/how-to-id-filters-certified-to-reduce-lead-in-drinking-water-epa_June-2024.pdf**

- 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 **630-256-3250** for recommendations regarding flushing times.

- 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 reduce lead levels in water.**

- 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.

- Alternative water sources. You may choose to utilize bottled water for drinking or cooking, especially for pregnant persons, infants, and young children. Bottled water standards are primarily regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The FDA standard for lead in bottled water is set at 5 parts per billion (ppb).

- Get Your Child Tested to Determine Lead Levels in His or Her 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.

  Kane County Health Department: (630) 208-3801
  DuPage County Health Department: (630) 682-7400
  Kendall County Health Department: (630) 553-9100
  Will County Health Department: (815) 727-8480

  The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that public health actions be initiated when the level of lead in a child's blood is 3.5 micrograms per deciliter (ug/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

- Learn what your service line material is. The City of Aurora, in 2025, provided notification to residents regarding the presence of a lead service line to their home or building. Additional information is available at this link: https://lead-service-cityofaurora.hub.arcgis.com.

- Learn about construction in your neighborhood. Contact us at 630-256-3200 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; however, when this occurs, the city will immediately provide a temporary lead filtration device and will also replace the disturbed line at no cost within 30 days.

- Have your water tested. Upon request, the Water Production Division will provide customer assistance with water sampling procedures. Email the Water Production Division at **leadtesting@aurora.il.us.** The Water Production Division works with the following certified laboratories for lead testing:

First Environmental Laboratories, Inc.
1600 Shore Road
Naperville, IL 60563 630-778-1200

Eurofins Eaton Analytical
110 S. Hill Street
South Bend, IN 46617 574-233-4777

LEVELS OF LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

Between January 2025 and June 2025, Aurora collected 100 samples and analyzed them for lead. The results of more than 10 percent of our samples exceeded the action level for lead, which is defined as the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

The lead action level is a measure of the effectiveness of corrosion control treatment in water systems. The action level is not a standard for establishing a safe level of lead in a home. To check if corrosion control is working, EPA requires water systems to test for lead at the tap in certain homes, including those with lead service lines. Systems compare sample results from homes to EPA's action level of 0.015 mg/L (15 ppb). If 10 percent of the samples from these homes have water concentrations that are greater than the action level, then the system must perform actions such as public education, adjusting treatment, and lead service line replacement.

The City of Aurora Water System is focused on protecting the health of every household in our community; however, lead from service lines and lead plumbing and fixtures can dissolve or break off into water and end up at the faucet. Specific sources of lead typically include lead service lines and lead solder used with copper plumbing. This does not mean that every property that receives drinking water from the City of Aurora Water System has lead in the drinking water. It does mean that you should understand how to reduce your exposure to lead through water.