



## TOWN OF BEDFORD DRINKING WATER NOTICE

### **Your water service line material is unknown but could contain lead.**

*This notice contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you or speak with someone who understands it. Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water at this address, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail. If you are a property manager or owner of a multi-family building, please email [watersurvey@bedfordma.gov](mailto:watersurvey@bedfordma.gov) to confirm that this posting has been made public to all residents.*

Dear Customer,

Water systems are now required to document all water service line materials and identify any lead or lead containing materials. Our most recent inventory has determined that a portion of or the entire water pipe (called a service line) that connects your home or building to the water main is of **unknown material classification**. Unknown means that the service line could contain lead.

As precaution, here is information on the health effects of lead and steps to reduce your exposure. If your service line is confirmed as lead, the Town of Bedford will share information on financial help to remove it and replace it with one made of a safer material.

### **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 exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems.

### **Until the material of your service line is confirmed and any lead is removed, use the following steps to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water.**

- **Run your water to flush out lead.** Lead levels increase over time as water sits in lead-containing plumbing materials. Before drinking or cooking with your water after it has sat overnight or longer, flush your home's pipes by running water through the kitchen faucet, taking a shower, or doing any other non-consumptive water usage. Run the water for at least 1 minute or until after it turns cold. 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.
- **Use only cold, fresh water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula.** Run the water for at least 1 minute or until after it turns cold.
- **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water does not remove lead.
- **Clean your aerator.** Regularly clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator). Sediment, debris, and lead particles can collect in your aerator. Lead particles can release lead into your water. See how to clean your aerator at [important-resources-for-safe-drinking-water.pdf \(epa.gov\)](#).
- **Use your filter properly, if you use a filter.** Filters can reduce lead in drinking water. Make sure it is certified by the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) to remove lead- it will say so on the package. Follow



directions to properly install, use, and replace your filter. Do not run hot water through the filter. For more information, and which certifications to look for, visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) website at <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/consumer-tool-identifying-point-use-and-pitcher-filters-certified-reduce-lead>.

- **Identify and replace plumbing fixtures** containing lead and any copper piping with lead solder.
- **Have your child's blood tested for lead.** Children are a higher risk group of the health effects of lead. If you would like to have your child tested, you may contact your health care provider, or the Massachusetts Childhood Lead Prevention Program at 800-532-9571.
- **Have your water tested for lead. You cannot see, taste or smell lead in drinking water.** Contact our system for more information about lead in your drinking water and how to get your water tested by a state certified laboratory. See the list of labs here: [Certified Laboratory Search Results](https://www.mass.gov/how-to/find-a-certified-laboratory-for-water-testing) (<https://www.mass.gov/how-to/find-a-certified-laboratory-for-water-testing>).

## Opportunities to Verify Lead Service Materials

In Bedford, the service from the water main to the shut off valve is owned by the Town and the water service from the shut off valve to the water meter is the responsibility of the homeowner.

The Town of Bedford Staff or its contractor may contact you to perform a service line material inspection. Please utilize the **MassDEP Lead Service Line Identification Tool** presented in the QR codes below to send your service line information to the Town of Bedford and to **learn more about Lead in Drinking Water**.

MassDEP Lead Service Line Identification Tool  
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/f9ee39b7972f443ca63e8b936cd7f92b>



US EPA Protect your Tap Tool  
<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/protect-your-tap-quick-check-lead-0>



For MassDEP information on Lead in Drinking Water see <https://www.mass.gov/lead-in-drinking-water>.

For Town of Bedford information on the Lead inventory and Replacement Program please visit us at:  
<https://www.bedfordma.gov/962/Service-Line-Material-Investigation>



For more information, or if you have questions on how to verify the material of your service line, contact Michael Sprague at [watersurvey@bedfordma.gov](mailto:watersurvey@bedfordma.gov) or (781) 275-7605.

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