

Customer's Guide to Lead

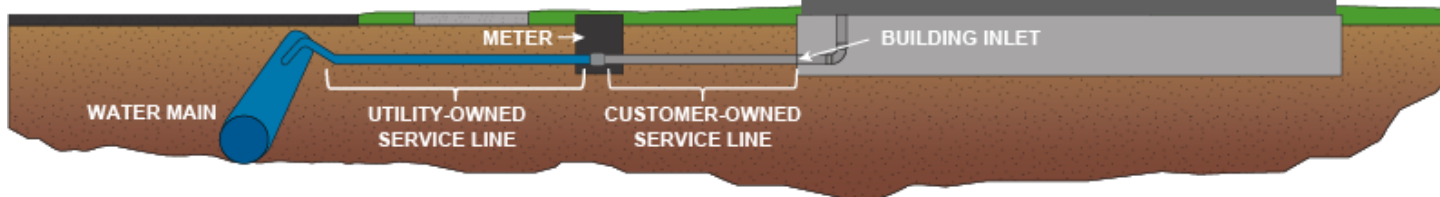
Prince William Water treats, tests and distributes high-quality drinking water to about 380,000 customers in Prince William County. Water provided by Prince William Water is lead-free when it leaves the drinking water treatment plant. The drinking water then flows through water service lines and in-home plumbing that may contain lead.

As part of a new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) program, Prince William Water is working to identify customer-owned service lines that contain lead. Service lines connect each home to the water main. Prince William Water owns and maintains the service lines throughout our distribution system, while the portion of the service line from the meter to the residence is privately owned and maintained.

Your service line connects your home's plumbing to the water system.

Homeowners own and are responsible for maintaining the portion of the service line from the meter to your residence.

There may be sources of lead in your home, including plumbing pipes and fixtures, as well as paint, antique cookware, or unregulated consumer products.



Questions? Contact Prince William Water at
leadandcopper@pwwater.org or 703-335-7950

Scan the QR code or visit <https://princewilliamwater.org/lead-safe-prince-william> to learn more.

Your Water • Your Environment • Our Mission

Health Effects of Lead

Lead exposure can cause serious health impacts.

EPA requires Prince William Water to share the following public health statement with you: 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.

Lead is a common metal that has been in many consumer products but is now known to be harmful to human health if ingested or inhaled. It can be found in lead-based paint, air, soil, household dust, food, some types of pottery, and drinking water. Lead is rarely found in natural sources of water such as rivers, lakes, wells or springs.

Simple Tips to Reduce Lead Exposure in Your Home

- Test your water if you are concerned about lead in your drinking water. Tests should be performed by a state-certified laboratory.
- Flush your tap for at least 5 minutes before drinking or cooking if the water in the faucet has gone unused for more than 6 hours (for example, first thing in the morning).
- Filter your water. Use a water filter that is NSF 53 certified for lead removal. Many filters and filter systems can improve water quality and taste in other ways too. Visit [nsf.org](https://www.nsf.org) for more information.
- Use cold tap water for drinking and preparing food. Hot water is more likely to contain lead than cold water.
- Clean faucet aerators and flush cold water taps regularly. Aerators can collect particles from lead plumbing and should be removed and cleaned on a regular basis. It is especially important after household plumbing work and repairs. After removing the aerator, flush the cold-water lines for 5 minutes.

Our Mission

Prince William Water **protects public health and the environment** by reliably providing **clean, safe and dependable** water and wastewater reclamation services to our community.

More Information:

Scan the QR code or visit

www.princewilliamwater.org/lead-safe-prince-william to learn more. Email

leadandcopper@pwwater.org or call 703-335-7950.



Your Water • Your Environment • Our Mission