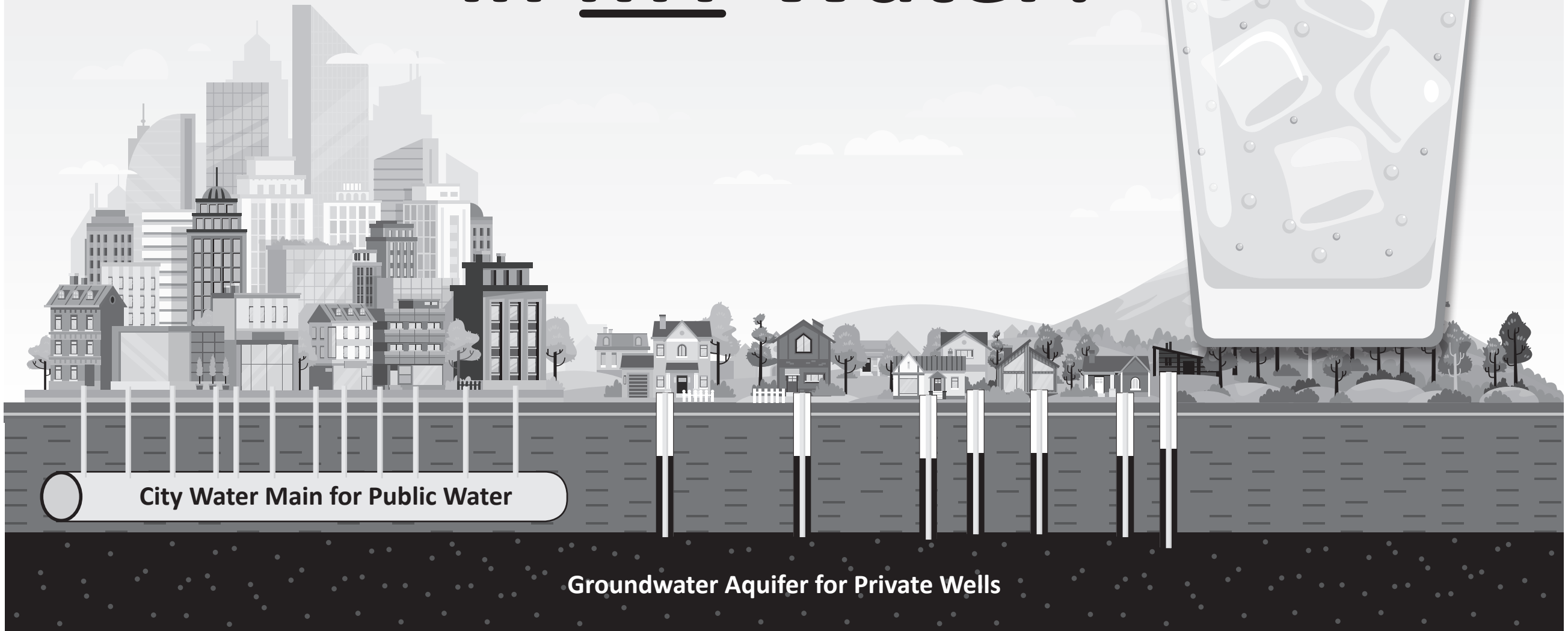


Is There Lead in MY Water?



City Water Main for Public Water

Groundwater Aquifer for Private Wells

GET THE FACTS ABOUT YOUR WATER

PUBLIC WATER



If your residence uses Public Water

Lead can enter drinking water when a chemical reaction occurs in plumbing materials that contain lead. This is known as corrosion – dissolving or wearing away of metal from the pipes and fixtures. This reaction is more severe when water has high acidity or low mineral content.

Step #1: Look at your water bill. The name of your water provider and website will be available.

Step #2: Your water bill and water provider’s website will have what is called a “Consumer Confidence Report” that will provide you an overview of the water quality and information on the water main and pipe materials your city uses to bring the water to your residence.

Step #3: If not, we encourage you to talk to, or email with, your water provider. Use the “Public Water” scripts provided below to help introduce yourself and ask the right questions.

Public Water Script

“Hello, my name _____. I’m a water customer and would like to learn more about my water system.”

Q: Is the source of my tap water from surface or ground water?

Q: What material(s) is the water main that supplies my residence?

Q: What material is the public service line that supplies my residence?

Q: Are there sources of lead in the system, such as a lead gooseneck connecting the water main to the service line or lead solder?

Q: Has the public service line ever been replaced?

Step #4: Solutions For Addressing Lead In Your Water

- Ask to have your water tested. Many public water systems will test drinking water for residents upon request. Ask your water provider or your state’s Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Centers for Disease Control (CDC) if there are any programs to assist with the removal of the lead service line going to your home.
- Call a state-certified water testing lab. You can find a list by searching for state-certified water testing labs from the state that you reside in.
- Remove the source. Replace lead pipes, the well pump, or other plumbing with lead solder or brass. This may be too costly unless the plumbing is old and due for an upgrade.
- Flush the pipes when water remains unused for more than 6 hours (such as first thing in the morning or after work)
 - Let the water run as cold as it can get for at least 1 minute before using.
 - NEVER use water from the hot water faucet for cooking, drinking or making baby formula.
 - Have a state-certified lab test your water after flushing.
- Use bottled water for drinking and cooking. Though this may not be the most cost-effective option in the long term.
- Install a home water treatment system. These systems include: Activated carbon; Distillation; Ion exchange; Reverse osmosis.

WELL WATER



If your residence uses Well Water

Well water is groundwater, meaning that it comes from the water stored in the earth and rocks below ground. Even though groundwater is under the surface, substances on the surface, such as gas from a lawnmower or animal waste, can seep down and pollute it. Some natural substances stored in rocks and soil can also affect the smell, taste, color, and safety of well water.)

Step #1: The age of your residence is the first bit of vital information you need to determine the likelihood of lead in your water. Corrosion (wearing away) of plumbing fixtures, including lead pipes, lead solder and brass fittings. Well pumps may also contain brass fittings. Acidic water (water with a low pH) corrodes lead in plumbing more quickly.

- Homes built before 1930 are more likely to have lead pipes.
- Homes built before 1988 may contain lead-based solder.
- Older wells may have been built using lead screens. Sometimes, lead was poured into older wells to keep out sand.

Step #2: If you’re unsure GET YOUR WATER TESTED. Call a state-certified lab to test your water. You can find a list by searching for state-certified water testing labs from the state that you reside in.

Step #3: There are FOUR POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS if your well water tests high for lead:

- Remove the source. Replace lead pipes, the well pump, or other plumbing with lead solder or brass. This may be too costly unless the plumbing is old and due for an upgrade.
- Flush the pipes when water remains unused for more than 6 hours (such as first thing in the morning or after work)
 - Let the water run as cold as it can get for at least 1 minute before using.
 - NEVER use water from the hot water faucet for cooking, drinking or making baby formula.
 - Have a state-certified lab test your water after flushing.
- Use bottled water for drinking and cooking. Though this may not be the most cost effective option in the long term.
- Install a home treatment system. These systems include: Activated carbon; Distillation; Ion exchange; Reverse osmosis.

KEY FACTS ABOUT LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

- If your house and/or apartment building was built before 1976, **HAVE YOUR WATER TESTED.**
- Lead flakes and particulates cannot be seen in simple water tests. Contact a state-certified (licensed) laboratory in your state to test your water.
- Lead cannot be tasted and has no smell.
- Lead is not naturally found in water.
- The presence of contaminants, including lead, can lead to health issues like gastrointestinal illness, reproductive problems, neurological and behavioral problems.
- In 2016, the EPA called upon states to publicize the locations of lead-containing service lines. In response, utilities across the country have developed inventories of their service lines and their materials of construction. You have the right to know if there is lead construction in your community water system.

