

Notice of Unknown Service Line Material

Fruitland Mutual Water Company (FMWC) is focused on protecting the health of every household in our community. This notice contains important information about your drinking water. Please share this information with anyone who drinks and/or cooks using water at this property.

Fruitland Mutual Water Company has determined that **a portion of** water pipe (called a service line) that connects your **home, building or other structure on your property** to the water main is made from **unknown material** that may have been in contact with lead. Because your service line material is unknown, there is the potential that some or all the service line could be made of galvanized pipe that was previously connected to lead. The exterior coating on galvanized pipe used to prevent rust can also contain some level of lead. People living in homes with galvanized pipe that may have been previously connected to a lead service line have an increased risk of exposure to lead from their drinking water. Fruitland Water over the past several years has replaced hundreds of aging galvanized lines and have yet to encounter lead connections, in addition to this, we will continue to replace aging lines and keep the



membership informed about the progress in changing service lines.

Identifying Service Line Material

To help determine the material of your service line, please contact **FMWC via phone, email and/or visit our website**. EPA developed an online step-by-step guide to help people identify lead pipes in their homes: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/protect-your-tap-quick-check-lead>.

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

Steps to Reduce 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. It is not intended to be a complete list. It does not imply that all actions equally reduce lead in 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. 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 filters to reduce lead website.

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.

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 remove lead from water.

Learn about construction in your neighborhood. Contact FMWC at 253-848-5519 or customerservice@fruitlandwater.com to find out about any of the utility's construction or maintenance work that could disturb your service line. Construction may cause more lead to be released from a lead service line or galvanized service line if present.

Have your water tested. Contact FMWC, via phone: **253-848-5519** or via email: customerservice@fruitlandwater.com for information about labs that can test your water to learn more about the lead levels in your drinking water. Note, a water sample may not adequately capture or represent all sources of lead that may be present. Visit [https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water - getinto](https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water-getinto) for information on sources of lead that include service lines and interior plumbing.

Replace Service Lines. If you know you have galvanized or lead service lines between the meter and your home, building, or other structure consider having your lines replaced. The utility will continue to replace aging lines on the utility's side of the meter.

**** For more information on reducing lead exposure** from your drinking water and the health effects of lead, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/lead>.