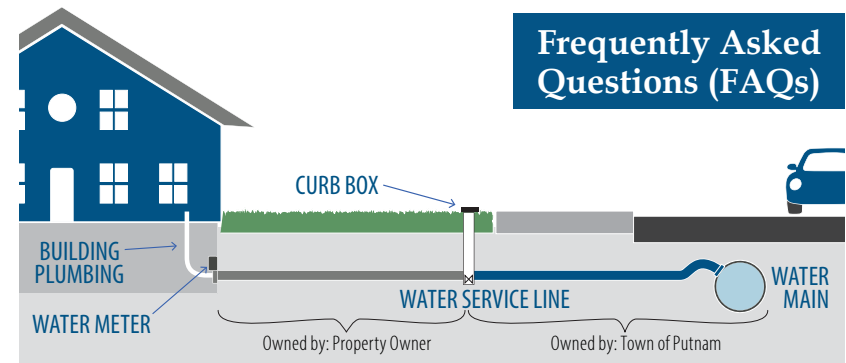




# The Town of Putnam Water Pollution Control Authority's LEAD PROGRAM

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



### 1. What is a water service line?

Water service lines are small pipes that carry water from the Town of Putnam's Water Authority's water mains, located in the streets, into individual homes and buildings.

### 2. How do I find my water service line?

You can find your water service line by first finding the water meter, which measures the amount of water you use, in your basement. The water service line is the pipe that connects the water meter to the water main in the street. You will see it come out of the meter and go into the floor or wall. For help locating the water service line, call the Water Authority at 860-963-6819.



*This is an example of a water meter.*

### 3. Who owns the water service line on my property?

The Water Authority owns the service line from the main in the street to the curb stop, typically at the property line or in the sidewalk. The property owner owns the service line from the curb box to the meter inside the home.

### 4. What materials can service lines be made of?

Service lines can be made of lead, galvanized steel, plastic, brass, copper, cast iron, or ductile iron.

### 5. What other sources of lead are in my home?

Other sources of lead can include plumbing fixtures (faucets, valves, fittings, etc.), indoor copper plumbing pipes with lead solder, and lead paint. Lead paint in homes is typically the greatest risk for lead exposure for young children.

### 6. Why do the water service line or plumbing fixture in some homes have lead?

Lead was commonly used for water service lines until 1960 and in household plumbing fixtures and solder until 1986, when it was banned. From 1986 to 2014, plumbing fixtures could have up to 8% lead and still be called "lead free." However, current standards for "lead free" fixtures allow no more than 0.25% lead content.

Many homes and buildings, especially those built before 1986, may have service lines and/or internal plumbing and fixtures that are made of or have lead.

### 7. How does lead get into the drinking water?

When water leaves the Water Authority's water treatment plant, it does not have lead. The water mains in the street that take water from the treatment plant are mostly made of iron and steel. They do not add lead to the drinking water.

Lead can get into drinking water from the plumbing inside your building or the service line between the street and your building. When water sits in the service line or your building's plumbing without being used for several hours, such as overnight, lead may dissolve into the water. So, the best way to stop lead from getting into your drinking water is replacing the water service line and older plumbing and fixtures in your home.

### 8. How do I know if I have a lead or galvanized steel service line that needs replacement?

The Water Authority is preparing a lead service line inventory. You can look up your address on [this interactive map](#) to learn if we know the material of your service line. If your service line material is unknown, you can take simple steps to learn and report your material, as [outlined here](#). You can also call 860-963-6819 to schedule a free inspection.

### 9. I looked at my line, but I cannot tell if I have a lead service line. What should I do?

Schedule a free inspection from the Water Authority by calling 860-963-6819.

### 10. If my home's plumbing has lead solder, how can I protect myself right now?

If you think you have lead solder, flush your system by running cold water for 5 minutes whenever the water in your home has not been used for more than 6 hours. Flushing helps your water come directly from the main, where lead is rarely present, instead of coming from sitting in a pipe in contact with lead or lead parts. Cleaning your faucet aerator will also decrease lead build-up. For a more final solution, a licensed plumber can replace pipes that have lead solder with lead-free pipes.

You can also purchase a National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) 53-certified water filtration system, which can be installed at the faucet, or a filter pitcher that will remove lead. A water filter installed at the faucet will remove lead that may have entered the water from the service line, indoor plumbing, and plumbing fixtures. More information about NSF filters and a list of certified filters can be found on [this website](#).

### 11. Where can I get more information about lead in drinking water?

- Visit the [Water Authority Lead Information](#) page
- Visit the [EPA's Lead and Copper Rule](#) website
- Email: [Denise.Carroll@putnamct.us](mailto:Denise.Carroll@putnamct.us)