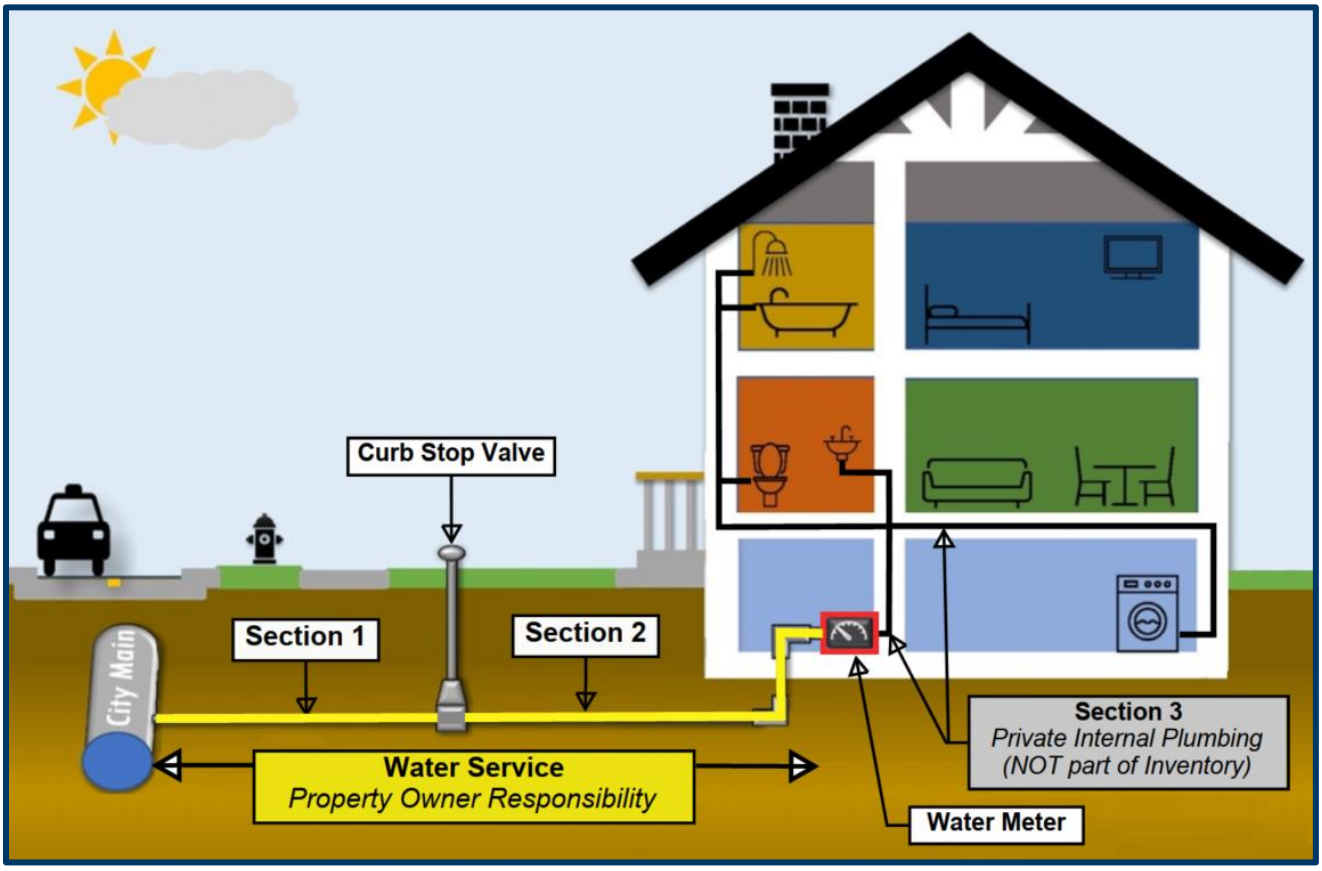
Notice to Individuals Served by a Lead Service Line

The City of Hastings 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. In addition to people directly served at this property, this can include people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, businesses, as well as parents served by childcare at this property.

As part of new requirements from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) required all public water systems in the State to complete a comprehensive inventory of water service lines to identify lead or galvanized service lines needing replacement.

The City of Hastings has determined that as of 10/11/2024, **Section 2** of your service line that connects your property to the City water main is made from **lead** (see diagram below). People living in homes with a lead service line may have an increased risk of exposure to lead from their drinking water.



As part of the water service line inventory, City staff and consultants used a variety of methods to determine the material of Section 1 and Section 2 of your water service in the diagram above. It is important to note that Section 3, which is the internal plumbing of your home after the water meter, was not part of the inventory efforts mandated by the EPA and MDH. **All three sections of the water service are owned by the private property owner in the City of Hastings.**

Map of Service Line Inventory – State of Minnesota

Individuals can find information on service line material information on addresses located in Minnesota at: Minnesota Service Line Material Tool (umn.edu) (https://maps.umn.edu/LSL/)

Steps you can take 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 links where you may find more information and is not intended to be a complete list or to imply that all actions equally reduce lead in drinking water.

- **Use a filter**. 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 website at https://www.epa.gov/water-research/consumer-tool-identifying-point-use-and-pitcher-filters-certified-reduce-lead.
- **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.
- **Run your water.** The more time water has been sitting in pipes providing water to your home, the more lead it may contain. Before drinking, flush your home's pipes by running the tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or doing a load of dishes. 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. City of Hastings Public Works staff completes routine flushing in the spring of all water main lines at public fire hydrant locations. These flushing activities are intended to remove buildup and clean main lines, and likely have minimal impact on cleaning individual service lines.
- **Have your water tested.** You can contact a Minnesota Department of Health accredited laboratory (https://eldo.web.health.state.mn.us/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam) to purchase a sample container and instructions on how to submit a sample. Note, a water sample may not adequately capture or represent all sources of lead that may be present**.** For information on sources of lead that include service lines and interior plumbing, please visit https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water#getinto

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.

Understand Blood Lead Testing

In Minnesota, elevated blood lead levels are most associated with lead exposure from lead paint and dust. Water is rarely the cause of elevated blood lead levels. If you have concerns about childhood lead exposure, check with your family doctor, pediatrician, or health care provider to determine if a blood test for lead is recommended. State, city, or county departments of health can also provide information about health effects of lead and how you can have your child's blood tested for lead. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that public health actions be initiated when the level of lead in a child's blood is 3.5 micrograms per deciliter (µg/dL) or more. For more information and links to CDC's website, please visit https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water. MDH also has Lead Information for Families: (https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/families.html).

Replacing lead service lines

Water service lines in the City of Hastings are the responsibility of the property owner from the point of connection with the City water main to the water meter inside your property – see figure included on the first page of this letter. As state and federal funding opportunities become available, we anticipate the replacement of your lead service line will likely be eligible to be completed at no cost to you. Funding is not readily available for the City of Hastings at this time, however, the EPA's target date for all lead and galvanized services lines to be removed is the year 2033.

The City of Hastings will be applying for funding that is expected to become available as early as the year 2026. All funding must pass through the City of Hastings to ensure certain state and federal construction requirements are met. **If a property owner replaces their service line without coordinating with the City of Hastings, the property owner may not be eligible for grant funding or reimbursement**. Please coordinate with the City of Hastings prior to planning or completing any improvements to your water service line.

Please note, your service line is already documented within our replacement program as high priority as soon as funding becomes available. **If you have any questions regarding our plans for replacement, please visit our website listed below, or contact us at 651-480-6185.**

- **City of Hastings Lead Service Line Webpage:**
  - https://www.hastingsmn.gov/LSL
- **For more information from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH):**
  - **Lead Service Line Replacement Program:**
    - https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/lslrprogram.html
  - **Additional information on lead in drinking water**
    - https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/lead.html