

## Berkeley Springs Water Works

11/15/2024

Customers of Berkeley Springs Water Works

Dear Customer,

We are writing to notify you that we recently completed an initial service line inventory for our water system. The purpose of the inventory is to identify the plumbing materials used in water service lines and identify any service lines made from lead. Water service lines provide drinking water to your residence from the water main. A portion of the service line is owned by the Berkeley Springs Water Works (on public property) and a portion is owned by the customer (on private property).

During the initial inventory, we were **unable** to find information on the material of the service line that provides water to your home.

**Your service line material is currently UNKNOWN in our inventory and may be lead. We need your help to identify the service line material.**

### **How Do I Verify My Service Line Material?**

- *If you don't know your service line material, you can complete a visual inspection where the service line enters your home. Common service line materials include plastic and copper. Some service lines may be made of lead or galvanized materials. It can typically be found from the water meter to the shut-off valve or approximately 18 inches past the foundation.*
- *If you already know the material of your service line or have any additional information that may indicate the service line material (i.e., previous service line replacements at your residence or residential build year), please let us know.*

Contact Richard Mayhew 304-258-9152 to provide your home's service line information.

### **What is Lead and How Does it Enter Water?**

Lead is a heavy metal that can be toxic to humans and animals, causing health effects. Lead is rarely found in source water and typically enters drinking water through the wearing away (corrosion) of plumbing materials that contain lead. The most common sources of lead in drinking water are lead pipes, such as lead service lines, and faucets and fixtures that contain lead. Other sources of lead may include older types of paint, contaminated soil, or other household products. Lead in drinking water is tasteless, colorless, and odorless and can only be detected by lab analysis.

If Berkeley Springs Water Works finds lead service lines during our service line inventory, we will work to replace them with non-lead materials so that all residents are served with safe and reliable drinking water.

#### **What are the 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 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.

If you are concerned about your child's health, contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child's blood tested for lead.

#### **What are Best Practices to Reduce Lead in Drinking Water?**

- **Run your water before use.** After periods of time without using water (e.g., each morning, returning home from work, returning from vacation) allow the water to run at the tap for a few minutes to flush water through the service line and plumbing in the home before using it for drinking or cooking. Taking a shower, running the dishwasher, or flushing the toilet will also help to flush your lines.
- **Clean your aerator.** Regularly 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 enter your water.
- **Investigate plumbing materials of fixtures, faucets, interior pipes, and solder.** Faucets, joints, interior pipes, solder, and other fixtures can all contain small amounts of lead. Copper pipes may also be joined with lead solder. If you find materials that contain lead, it is recommended to replace them or use a certified
- **Use cold water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula.** Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap as lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
- **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water does not remove lead.
- **Consider filtering your water.** Obtain an ANSI (American National Standards Institute) water filter that is certified to remove lead.

To view our entire service line inventory, please contact Richard Mayhew 304-258-9152 For questions regarding our lead service line inventory or verifying your service line material, please contact Richard Mayhew 304-258-9152 or email [Richard.d.mayhew550@gmail.com](mailto:Richard.d.mayhew550@gmail.com)

Water Superintendent

