

## **Action Plan**

To protect the health and well-being of its citizens, the city has implemented a lead water service line screening method and a service line replacement program, in collaboration with partners such as the Direction régionale de santé publique (DRSP), the NSERC Industrial Chair on Drinking Water (Polytechnique Montréal), and the Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques.

In 2019, the city reviewed its action plan and equipped itself with the means to eliminate all lead water service lines within city limits by 2030. The plan includes the following six actions:

1. Provide an [online map](#) for residents to obtain information about the possible presence of lead in their building.
2. Accelerate screening in order to accurately locate all lead water service lines within city limits. The city will analyze the tap water of approximately 100,000 buildings by 2022, prioritizing those which contain family day cares, early childhood education centres (CPE), single-family homes, duplexes and triplexes.
3. Provide (since 2020) a filtration device upon confirmation of a lead water service line. The residents concerned receive a communication explaining the procedure to be followed.
4. Continue to accelerate the replacement of lead service lines on public property. The city will have replaced all lead service lines by 2030, i.e. approximately 48,000 service lines.
5. Make it mandatory, from 2021, to replace the private portion of a lead water service line.
6. Prioritize the replacement of lead water service lines in wartime housing-type buildings, single-family homes, duplexes and triplexes.

The city is continuing its awareness campaigns for citizens affected by the issue of lead water service lines.

**2020 Awareness Campaign letters - bilingual**  
**[Important information about lead water service lines](#)**  
**[Lead service lines – new regulations](#)**

## **Filtration devices**

Since June 2020, in an effort to reduce exposure to lead in tap water, the city has been providing a water filter pitcher and four (4) replacement filters to each dwelling where a lead water service line has been detected by a screening test or visual inspection.

The city recommends using a filter until the water service line (public and private portions) has been completely replaced.

## **Who gets a pitcher?**

Citizens eligible for this program will receive a document which indicates the presence of a lead water service line in their dwelling and provides instructions for obtaining a pitcher and four (4) filters.

There are two ways the city can determine if your building has a lead water service line:

1. By testing your kitchen tap water. This annual program is carried out between June and October. Those citizens concerned receive a notice informing them that an employee will be coming to their home to conduct a test.
2. Performing a visual inspection during excavation when replacing the public portion of lead service lines on a street.

Delivery time: approximately 4 weeks (could be longer due to high demand).

### **Consult the Frequently Asked Questions section (coming soon)**

#### **Choosing the right pitcher**

Most big box stores in Québec sell filter pitchers. However, if you wish to purchase a filter pitcher yourself, check with the manufacturer that it can be used with filters certified for lead reduction in accordance with NSF/ANSI standard 53.

Ideally, the pitcher you choose should also provide a water quality measuring device that tells you when to change the filter.

It is recommended that you consult the pitcher manufacturer's website for more information.

Other filtration devices may also be better suited to your needs, such as filters attached to the faucet or filters installed under the sink. In all cases, these devices must be certified for lead reduction in accordance with NSF/ANSI standard 53 by the recognized organizations listed below. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's installation and maintenance instructions carefully.

Organizations recognized by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) for lead reduction certification:

[info.nsf.org/Certified/DWTU/listings\\_leadreduction.asp](http://info.nsf.org/Certified/DWTU/listings_leadreduction.asp)

[wqa.org/find-products#/keyword/?claims=46](http://wqa.org/find-products#/keyword/?claims=46)

[pld.iapmo.org/](http://pld.iapmo.org/)

[iq.ulprospector.com/info/](http://iq.ulprospector.com/info/)

[www.csagroup.org](http://www.csagroup.org)

#### **Replacements**

##### **Annual replacement program**

Planned replacement by the city of the public portion of lead water service lines, mainly as part of water main or roadway rehabilitation and reconstruction.

##### **Replacement of the private portion**

As a homeowner, you have the option of carrying out the work with the contractor of your choice. You can do this before the city arrives on your street or within 24 months of receiving the city's notice. This way, you can look for contractors (we recommend getting quotes from three certified contractors) and can choose the contractor and a suitable time for the work to be done.

If you are planning substantial renovations, the [RénoPlex and Affordable housing reno](#) subsidy programs include financial assistance for replacing water service lines. Find out more at [ville.montreal.qc.ca/housing](http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/housing).

As of 2021, under by-law 20-030 governing connections to the public waterworks and sewer systems and stormwater management, when work to replace lead service lines is planned on public property, the city replaces the private portion at the same time if it is made of lead or a material that is or has been in contact with lead.

### **Costs and billing**

The cost of replacing the private portion (from the street to the water shut-off valve inside the building) is charged to the owner. The city currently estimates the average cost to range from \$2,200 to \$5,000 per service line. This amount may vary depending on the length of the service line and on the obstacles hindering the work inside or in front of the house.

The owner may pay their invoice to the city upon receipt or spread it out over a period of 15 years. The interest rate and administration fee will be based on the city's borrowing rate. This amount will be associated with the building and passed on to the next owner if the building is sold.

For more information on this by-law, refer to the [Leaflet](#)

**Accelerated program:** Team in charge of replacing service lines in wartime housing-type homes. This program ends in 2021.

**Resident participation program:** Team in charge of replacing the public portion, upon request, following the replacement of the private portion by the owner.

[Request form for the replacement of a lead water service line 2021 \(in French\)](#)

### **Other city programs concerning lead**

**Annual screening program:** City teams contact the occupants of targeted buildings to screen for lead service lines.

**Specific request for screening:** A resident living in a building with a potential lead service line may request a home screening. Screenings are carried out between June and October of every year. [Screening request form \(in French\)](#)