Recommendations and legislation page

Recommendations and legislation

Considering the health hazards of lead, the city is asking you to:

1. **Consult the online map (in French) of lead water service lines**
2. **Reduce exposure to lead in your tap water and minimize your risk by:**
    - Using a water filter pitcher, a tap filter or a pipe filter under your sink. These devices must be certified for lead reduction in accordance with NSF/ANSI standard 53, and the manufacturer's installation and maintenance instructions must be carefully followed.
    - Using a filter until your entire service line is fully replaced.
3. **Make the following part of your daily routine**: Let the tap water run for a few minutes after it has become cold. Always use cold water for cooking. Clean the aerator (screen) on your tap regularly.

    Remember: Boiling the water has no effect on its lead content. Lead does not evaporate and cannot be destroyed by boiling.

4. **(For owners) Replace the private portion of the service line to your building if it is made of lead.** Starting in 2021, once work is planned, if the private portion is still made of lead, the city will replace it at the same time as the public portion, at the owners' expense. The terms of payment are specified in by-law 20-030.

*Organizations recognized by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) for lead reduction certification:
info.nsf.org/Certified/DWTU/listings_leadreduction.asp
wqa.org/find-products#/keyword/?claims=46
pld.iapmo.org/
iq.ulprospector.com/info/
www.csagroup.org

By-law 20-030

In December 2020, the city amended by-law 20-030 concerning connections to the public waterworks and sewer systems and stormwater management, which governs, among other things, the replacement of water service lines.

It is now mandatory to replace the private portion of the water service line, if it is made of lead.

Accordingly, when work to replace lead service lines is planned on public property, the city will replace the private portion at the same time, if it is made of lead.

Every year, the city plans work to replace lead or galvanized steel water service lines on public property. From now on, the city will seize the opportunity afforded by this municipal work to also replace the private portion of a water service line if it is still made of lead.

Download the by-law (in French)

Recommendations of the Direction régionale de santé publique de Montréal (DRSP)

The Direction régionale de santé publique de Montréal (DRSP) considers the health risk to be low. Nevertheless, the scientific knowledge shows the need for caution. The objective of the public health authorities is therefore to reduce exposure to lead as much as possible, especially for young children and pregnant women.

To minimize the risk, individual measures can be taken to reduce exposure to lead in tap water, such as using a filter device (filter pitcher, filter attached to the faucet or installed under the sink) certified for lead reduction in accordance with NSF/ANSI standard 53. It is very important to carefully follow the manufacturer's recommendations for the installation and maintenance of these filters. Such measures are especially important for babies fed with commercial formulas of milk reconstituted with water (concentrated milk, powdered milk), children under the age of six and pregnant women (for the fetus) who live in a home with a lead service line.

For more information, visit the DRSP Web site or call the Info-Santé line at 811.

Government standards and legislation

The Québec government regulates drinking water quality and determines the maximum allowable level of lead in water in Québec. The current standard is 10 micrograms (0.010 milligrams) of lead per litre of water after letting the water run for five minutes. (Legislation is in the process of being approved to lower the standard to 5 µg/l)

The drinking water distributed by the city's water supply system is of excellent quality. However, some buildings have water service lines that are made of lead, and the lead can dissolve into the water, especially after long periods of stagnation. In this situation, the level of lead in the tap water may exceed the regulatory threshold.