

## SIMPLE HABITS TO INCLUDE IN YOUR DAILY ROUTINE

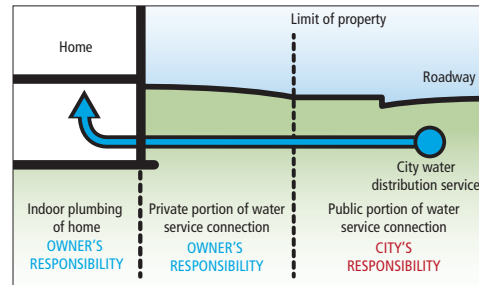
1. Let the water run from the tap few minutes after it turns cold (cool in summer), and especially if it has been sitting in the pipes for many hours (first thing in the morning or when you come home from work).
2. After letting the tap water run, fill a pitcher that can be kept in the refrigerator for a few days.
3. Always use cold water for cooking (coffee, tea, steam or boil vegetables, pasta, rice, etc.)
4. Clean the aerators (small screens) in your taps regularly.
5. For maximum reduction of lead in your drinking water, we recommend that you use a filtration device (filtering pitcher, a filter below your sink, or one that is secured to the tap) that is NSF-compliant for lead reduction, under standard NSF/ANSI no 53. Irrespective of the type of filter you have, it is essential to follow manufacturer's recommendations closely in terms of filter installation and maintenance.

See the Prevention Tips paragraph on the back of this brochure to find out if you are an at-risk person.

Please note that there is no point in boiling water: Lead won't evaporate and cannot be destroyed by boiling.

## MONTREAL ACTION PLAN

The city has developed an action plan, in order to eliminate lead water service connections in public areas. Should your water service connection be located on the side of your private property, the city recommends that you replace it. However, work on your private property may not coincide with work carried out on public property.



## CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

If you have replaced the private section of your lead water service connection, and you wish for the city to replace the public portion sooner, go to [ville.montreal.qc.ca/plomb](http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/plomb) "Plan d'action" section, in order to find out more about the steps required. The city will analyze your file and contact you about the action required.

## POUR DE PLUS AMPLES RENSEIGNEMENTS

### Ville de Montréal

311  
[ville.montreal.qc.ca/plomb](http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/plomb)

Direction régionale de santé publique  
de Montréal  
[santemontreal.ca/eaupotable](http://santemontreal.ca/eaupotable)

Info-Santé CLSC  
811

MELCC Québec information centre  
1 800 561-1616  
[www.environnement.gouv.qc.ca/eau/potable/plomb](http://www.environnement.gouv.qc.ca/eau/potable/plomb)

[ville.montreal.qc.ca](http://ville.montreal.qc.ca)

## Tips and prevention

# LEAD WATER SERVICE CONNECTIONS



Montréal 

## WHERE IS LEAD FOUND?

Lead may be found in small quantities in the air, water, food and dust. However, while old paint and gasoline used to contain large amounts of lead, this problem has since been eliminated through more restrictive legislation and standards.

## TYPES OF BUILDINGS AFFECTED BY THE POTENTIAL PRESENCE OF LEAD SERVICE CONNECTIONS

- A building that was built between 1940 and 1950, commonly known as wartime housing
- A building with fewer than eight units, built before 1970

For buildings having more than eight dwelling units or for residences built after 1970, it is highly unlikely that the pipe connecting the building to the municipal waterworks system is made of lead.

The drinking water produced and distributed by the city's water supply system is of excellent quality and is in keeping with the standards of the government of Québec.

However, when this water remains stagnant for a while in your lead water service connection, some lead may dissolve in the water, thereby increasing the lead concentration in the tap water.

If you want to have your tap water analyzed, make sure you contact an accredited laboratory<sup>1</sup>.

For the analysis to be valid, it must be carried out as approved by the Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques.

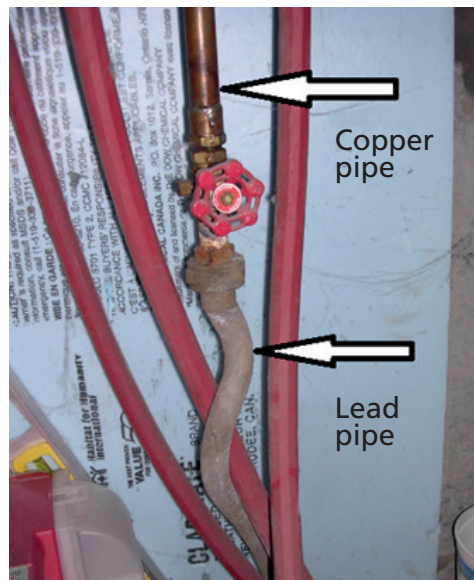
<sup>1</sup> The list of laboratories certified by the Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques is available at: [ceaeq.gouv.qc.ca/accreditation/pala/lla03](http://ceaeq.gouv.qc.ca/accreditation/pala/lla03)

## HOW TO RECOGNIZE A LEAD WATER SERVICE CONNECTION?

Find the water service valve and look at the pipe:

1. lead is grey;
2. lead does not echo if you strike it;
3. lead leaves metallic marks when you scratch it;
4. lead does not attract a magnet.

If you can't check the pipe yourself, contact your landlord or a plumber, who can do this for you. Nevertheless, even if your home doesn't have a lead water service connection, there is still a possibility that an underground section of that water service connection is made out of lead. An analysis of your water by an accredited laboratory will confirm whether or not any sections of your water service connection are made of lead.



Note: Aside from the water service connection, there may be other sources of lead in your plumbing, for instance, welding, taps, accessories.

## PREVENTION TIPS

The *Direction régionale de santé publique of the CIUSSS du Centre-Sud-de-l'Île-de-Montréal (DRSP)* has evaluated the health risk associated with the presence of lead in the tap water of buildings having a lead water service connection on the island of Montréal. It considers this risk to be low and limited to pregnant women (for the unborn child) and children under 6 years old.

To reduce this very low risk even further, the DRSP recommends that pregnant women and parents of children under six:

1. Use a NSF-certified filtration device (filtering pitcher, a filter under the sink or a filter attached to the faucet) to reduce lead in compliance with NSF/ANSI standard 53.
2. Drink bottled water. This precaution is especially important for newborns drinking formula made of concentrated or powdered milk.

Lead pipes are not unique to Montréal. These pipes are found elsewhere in Québec, in the rest of Canada and around the world.

To date, no cases of lead poisoning caused by tap water have been reported in Montréal.

<sup>2</sup> Regardless of the type of filter, the manufacturer's recommendations on installation and maintenance of these filters must be closely followed.