

Important to know

As a homeowner, you always 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. 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.

Public portion already replaced

The city may have already completed its work on the public portion of the water service line on your street. If this is the case, the homeowner has the obligation to replace the private portion, if it has not already been done. The city will issue a notice of non-compliance for the buildings concerned. Homeowners will need to have the work completed within 24 months of receiving this notice.

Subsidy programs

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

The complete by-law (in French) is available at:

- ville.montreal.qc.ca/plomb (in French)
- your borough office
- by calling 311

Montréal 

ville.montreal.qc.ca/plomb

Replacement of

Lead water service connections

By-law 20-030



To carry out its action plan to eliminate all lead water service lines¹ by 2030, the city has 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 lead water service connections.

These amendments make it mandatory to replace the private portion of the water service connection if it is made of lead or a material that is or has been in contact with lead.

Accordingly, when work to replace lead service connections is planned on public property, the city will replace 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.

Homeowners' obligations

Homeowners must take the necessary steps to carry out the required preparatory work within the prescribed time frame and before the city's contractor starts its work:

- Make sure the interior shut-off valve is accessible.
- If the interior shut-off valve is not accessible, do the necessary work to make it accessible (e.g. create an opening in the wall or floor, or move interior fittings).
- Remove any obstructions that would prevent work from being carried out inside the building.
- Remove any obstructions that would prevent excavation work from being performed outside the building (e.g. objects, landscaping, decorations).

If these obligations are not met, penalties are provided for in by-law 20-030, and tickets will be issued. Depending on the situation, fines of between \$500 and \$2,000 for an individual and between \$1,000 and \$4,000 for a corporation may be given out.

If a homeowner refuses to coordinate with the city, they still have the regulatory obligation to replace the private portion of the water service connection.

City contractor's obligations

The work performed by the city's contractor inside the building will be limited to a onetime demolition of the concrete slab or foundation wall, if necessary, to replace the lead water service connection.

Repair work carried out by the city's contractor is limited to the work it performed and does not include bringing the plumbing up to standard or repairs following work to make the interior shut-off valve accessible (e.g. floor or wall closure). This work is the homeowner's responsibility and will be at their expense.

Repair work performed by the city's contractor outside the building will be limited to replacing natural grass, asphalt, unreinforced concrete or paving stones, and work required to maintain accessibility to the building.

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 homeowner. The 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 homeowner may pay their invoice to the city upon receipt or spread it out over a period of 15 years. The interest rate and administration fees 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.

¹ In this document, the terms "water service lines" and "water service connections" are used as synonyms.