

For owners

If the private portion of your water service line is made of lead, the city recommends that you replace it. The work must be carried out at your expense by the contractor of your choosing. It is suggested that you obtain bids from at least three certified contractors. You must obtain a permit from your borough office before having the work done.

Beginning in 2021, once the city's work has been planned, the city will replace, at the owners' expense, any private portions of the service lines that are still made of lead when it replaces the public portion.

Public involvement

If you have already replaced the private portion of your lead service line and you want the city to replace the public portion sooner, please go to ville.montreal.qc.ca/plomb, in the "Plan d'action" section (in French), to find out what steps to take. The city will assess your file and contact you about the action required.

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

- Check the online lead service line map at ville.montreal.qc.ca/plomb to see whether your building is affected.
- 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 instructions must be carefully followed.
 - Using a filter until your entire service line is fully replaced.
- Add the following actions to your daily routine: To get rid of water that has been sitting in the pipes for many hours (first thing in the morning, for example, or when you come home from work), let the tap run for a few minutes until the water is cold (cool in summer) before drinking it. Always use cold water for cooking. Clean your tap aerator (screen) regularly.

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

Montréal 

For more information:

Ville de Montréal
ville.montreal.qc.ca/plomb (in French)
311

Direction régionale de santé publique
de Montréal
[santemontreal.qc.ca/en/public/
advice-and-prevention/lead-in-drinking-water](http://santemontreal.qc.ca/en/public/advice-and-prevention/lead-in-drinking-water)

Info-Santé
811

MELCC Centre de renseignements
mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca/eau/potable/plomb (in French)
1-800-561-1616

Prevention tips

Lead service lines



Montréal's water

The drinking water distributed by the city's water supply system is of excellent quality. Some buildings are equipped with a lead service line, however, and the lead may dissolve in the water, especially after long periods of stagnation. In this situation, the concentration of lead in the water may exceed the regulatory threshold.

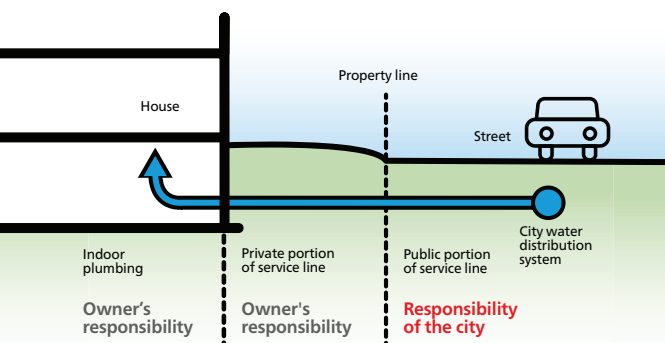
Where is lead found?

Lead may be found in small quantities in air, water, food and dust. In recent decades, the introduction of more restrictive standards has almost completely eliminated lead from gasoline, food tins, paint, plumbing solder and other materials.

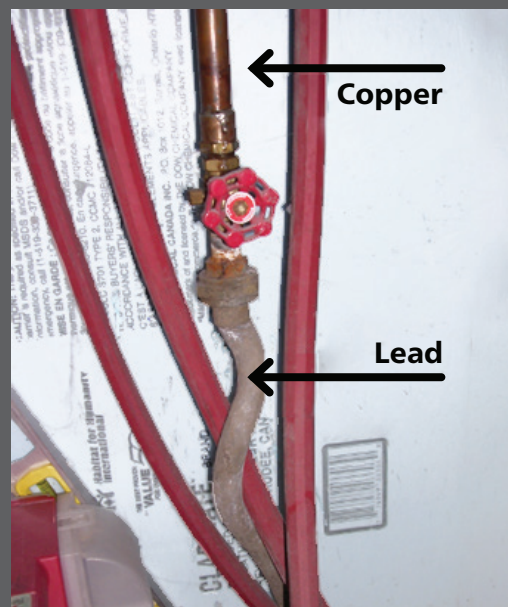
Types of building that may have lead service lines

- Buildings constructed before 1970 with eight or fewer dwellings
- Buildings constructed between 1940 and 1950, referred to as "wartime housing"

In buildings with more than eight dwellings and residences built after 1970, it is highly unlikely that the pipes connected to the municipal waterworks system are made of lead.



How to recognize a lead service line



Find the water service valve and look at the pipe. It is made of lead if:

- It is grey.
- It does not ring when you strike it.
- Metallic marks are left when you scratch it.
- It does not attract a magnet.

If you are unable to check this yourself, contact your landlord or a plumber. Even if the water service line inside your home is not made of lead, it is possible that the underground part is.

Note: In addition to the service line, there may be other sources of lead in your plumbing, such as solder, taps and accessories.

The city's action plan

- Provide an online map on which residents can find information about the presence of lead in their building.
- Speed up screening to identify lead service line by 2022.
- Beginning in 2020, provide a filtration device when the presence of a lead service line is confirmed.
- Continue to speed up the replacement of the public side of lead service lines.
- Make replacement of the private portion of lead service lines mandatory as of 2021.
- Make the replacement of lead service lines a priority for wartime housing, single-family houses, duplexes and triplexes.

The city continues to hold awareness campaigns for residents affected by lead water service lines.

Prevention tips

The Direction régionale de santé publique de Montréal (DRSP) has assessed the health risk from lead in the water to be low. Nevertheless, many people may be affected by it, and science recommends 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 risk, temporary protective measures can be used to reduce exposure to lead in tap water, such as using filtering devices (water filter pitchers, tap filters or pipe filters under the sink) that are certified to reduce lead in compliance with NSF/ANSI standard 53. It is very important to carefully follow the manufacturer's recommendations for the installation and maintenance of these filters. This is especially important for babies fed with commercial milk preparations made with water (concentrated or powdered formula), children under six and pregnant women (for the fetus) who live in a home with a lead service line.