

Lead in Drinking Water

Fact Sheet

How may lead get into my tap water?

Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. A service line is a portion of pipe that connects the water main to the building inlet. For Liberty customers, the service line is partially owned by the water system (line from the main to the water meter) and partially owned by the property owner (from the water meter to the building or house). Liberty is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components.

How may I determine if my tap water has lead?

- You cannot see, taste, or smell lead in drinking water.
- You can have your water tested. Call your local health department or search for laboratories in your area that test drinking water. There is a cost for having your water tested.

Can a high lead level in my drinking water cause health effects?

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have a decrease in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have an increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have an increased risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems.

What may I do to reduce potential lead in my drinking water?

- Run your cold-water tap to flush out lead. Run water for 30 seconds to 2 minutes or until it becomes cold before using it for drinking or cooking. This will help flush lead-containing water from pipes when the water has been sitting unused for an extended period of time.



- Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula or juice. Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap, lead dissolves more easily in hot water.
- Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
- Do not boil water to remove lead. Boiling water will not reduce lead.
- If you are worried about your child being exposed to lead from water or other sources, ask a doctor for a blood lead test.

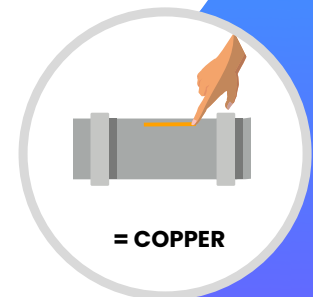


What is Liberty doing to help?

Liberty completed an inventory of the materials comprising service lines and continuously updates it with new information as it becomes available. If you need more information, please call us at 800-727-5987.

If the service line on my side is unknown, how may I identify the material?

Liberty is not responsible for your portion of your service line, but there are ways that you may identify the material of your portion of your service line. Lead is a dull, soft, non-magnetic material that turns a shiny silver color when scratched. This means a scratch test can be a simple, quick method for identifying the service line material entering a home or building. If the scratched area turns yellow-orange, it is likely copper. But if it turns shiny silver, it may be lead or galvanized iron. To distinguish between lead and galvanized iron, you could place a magnet on the pipe. If the magnet sticks to the pipe, it is likely iron and not lead.



If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at 800-727-5987 or scan the QR code below.



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