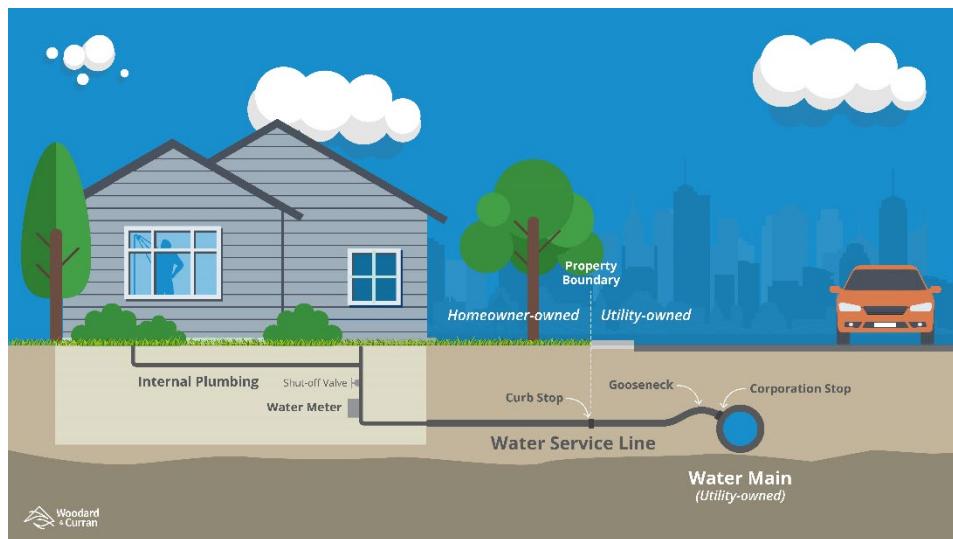


Hudson Service Line Inventory Program Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why has Hudson developed a service line inventory?

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) now require all water systems to document all water service line materials and identify any lead or lead containing materials from the water main distribution pipe in the street to your home or business. Lead service lines were historically installed by water utilities across the country.

A water service line is the pipe that connects your home or business to a water main from Town's distribution system. The process for documenting these water service line materials is referred to as a service line inventory. In Hudson, the service line is the shared responsibility of the property owner (Meter to Property Line) and the Town of Hudson (Property Line to Main). This is illustrated in the diagram below:



The development of a service line inventory is meant to be used as a tool to help inform the community about service line materials and provide information about the risk of lead in drinking water. The Town of Hudson Department of Public Works has regularly performed resident lead compliance testing since 1992 and based on the 90th percentile values and have not exceeded the lead action level.

2. What are some common service line materials in Hudson?

In Hudson most service lines are copper. Some homes or businesses have galvanized iron, ductile iron, brass or lead pipe. A graphic of various service line materials is shown below.

Types of Water Pipes (Service Lines)

LEAD A dull, silver-gray color that is easily scratched with a coin. Use a magnet - strong magnets will not cling to lead pipes.



PLASTIC White, rigid pipe.



BRASS Dark reddish brown to a light silvery color. Older pipes may be corroded and may contain lead.



GALVANIZED A dull, silver-gray color. Use a magnet – strong magnets will typically cling to galvanized pipes.



COPPER The color of a penny.



Photo source: DC Water

Woodard & Curran

3. I received a notice in the mail that says my service line is lead. What does this mean and what are my next steps?

As part of the service line inventory the Town of Hudson Department of Public Works is required to provide notifications to all services lines identified as lead. You have received a lead notice because the private side of your service line serving your home or business is lead based on the Town of Hudson Department of Public Works records. See below for the health effects associated with lead and the steps you can take to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water.

If your portion of the service line is lead, the Town of Hudson Department of Public Works encourages you to replace the privately-owned portion with a private contractor. You are responsible for inquiring about and scheduling the replacement with a contractor and filing appropriate permits with the DPW.

See the link provided for Pre-Approved Replacement Contractors:

<https://www.townofhudson.org/department-public-works/pages/licensed-excavators-forms-permit-applications>

4. I received a notice in the mail that says my service line is galvanized requiring replacement. What does this mean and what are my next steps?

As part of the service line inventory the Town of Hudson Department of Public Works is required to provide notifications to all services lines identified as lead, galvanized requiring replacement or unknown. You have received a galvanized requiring replacement notice because a portion of the service line serving your home or business was found to be galvanized requiring replacement by Hudson DPW Records.

The EPA has defined "galvanized requiring replacement" (GRR) to mean where a galvanized service line is or was at any time downstream of a lead service line or is currently downstream of a "lead status unknown" service line. If water systems are unable to demonstrate that the galvanized service line was never downstream of a lead service line, it must be presumed there was an upstream lead service line. For some galvanized services in Hudson, they are considered requiring replacement because we were unable to determine that they were never downstream of a lead service line.

If your portion of the service line is galvanized requiring replacement material, the Town of Hudson Department of Public Works encourages you to replace the privately-owned portion of GRR with a private contractor. You are responsible for inquiring about and scheduling the replacement with a contractor and filing appropriate permits with the Town of Hudson Department of Public Works.

See the link provided for Pre-Approved Replacement Contractors:

<https://www.townofhudson.org/department-public-works/pages/licensed-excavators-forms-permit-applications>

5. I received a notice in the mail that says my service line is unknown material that may contain lead. What does this mean, and what are my next steps?

As part of the service line inventory the Town of Hudson Department of Public Works is required to provide notifications to all services lines identified as lead, galvanized requiring replacement or unknown. You have received an unknown notice because either a portion of or your entire service line serving your home or business is unknown by the Hudson Department of Public Works records.

Having a service line listed as "unknown may contain lead" indicates there were no records to identify the material of a portion of or the entirety of your service line. Please contact the Department of Public Works at (978)-562-9333 or visit 1 Municipal Drive Hudson, MA 01749 to view the Town's full inventory to obtain information about your service line.

If your side of the service is unknown, please schedule an appointment for inspection with the Department of Public Works at (978)-562-9333. For utility side unknown service line materials, the Department of Public Works is researching additional records to determine if an excavation is required to determine material types. If an excavation is required, the Department of Public works will execute them as part of normal operations and over the next few years.

6. What are my resources for lead in drinking water?

Health effects of lead.

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases 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 increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems.

Steps you can take to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water.

- a. **Run your water to flush out lead.** Lead levels increase over time as water sits in lead-containing plumbing materials. Before drinking or cooking with your water after it has sat overnight or longer, flush your home's pipes by running water through the kitchen faucet, taking a shower, or doing any other non-consumptive water usage. Run the water for at least 1 minute or until after it

turns cold. The amount of time to run the water will depend on whether your home has a lead service line or not, as well as the length and diameter of the service line and the amount of plumbing in your home.

- b. **Use only cold, fresh water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula.** Run the water for at least 1 minute or until after it turns cold.
- c. **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water does not remove lead.
- d. **Clean your aerator.** Regularly clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator). Sediment, debris, and lead particles can collect in your aerator. Lead particles can release lead into your water. See how to clean your aerator at [important-resources-for-safe-drinking-water.pdf \(epa.gov\)](https://www.epa.gov/important-resources-for-safe-drinking-water.pdf).
- e. **Use your filter properly, if you use a filter.** Filters can reduce lead in drinking water. Make sure it is certified by NSF to remove lead- it will say so on the package. Follow directions to properly install, use, and replace your filter. Do not run hot water through the filter. For more information, and which certifications to look for, visit EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/consumer-tool-identifying-point-use-and-pitcher-filters-certified-reduce-lead>.
- f. **Identify and replace plumbing fixtures** containing lead and any copper piping with lead solder.
- g. **Have your child's blood tested for lead.** Children are a higher risk group of the health effects of lead. If you would like to have your child tested, you may contact your health care provider, or local state health department by phone at 1-800-532-9571 or website at www.mass.gov/orgs/childhood-lead-poisoning-prevention-program.
- h. **Have your water tested for lead. You cannot see, taste or smell lead in drinking water.** Contact our system for more information about lead in your drinking water and how to get your water tested by a state

5. Am I required to replace my service line?

In the Town of Hudson, service line ownership is split between the property owner and the Town. If you have received a notice for lead or galvanized requiring replacement, we encourage you to replace your private service line in coordination with the Department of Public Works (see FAQ No. 3 or 4).

Currently there is no law or ordinance in Hudson stating that you as the homeowner are required to replace your galvanized requiring replacement service or lead service line.

6. My neighbors/friends/family received a notice in the mail about their service line needing to be replaced or inspected, why did I not receive a notice?

Not receiving a notice means it is determined your property has non-lead material according to the Town's most recent service line inventory and no further action is necessary. The Town of Hudson is required to inform residents if their service line is galvanized requiring replacement, lead, or unknown. To view the material of your service line, please view the Town's full inventory at 1 Municipal Drive Hudson, MA 01749.