



October 1, 2024

DRINKING WATER NOTICE

To reduce the risk of exposure to lead in drinking water, all water utilities are required by the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to develop a material inventory (database) of all pipes (service lines) connecting the water main in the street to customer's homes and/or businesses. KWD has completed an initial service line inventory which can be found on our website: www.kennebecwater.org/SLI.

Since 2021, KWD staff have reviewed installation and construction records and local, state, and national plumbing codes, completed onsite inspections and excavations, and collected data directly from customers to identify service line pipe materials. While these efforts were successful at identifying the pipe material for a large portion of the water system, the pipe material for many service lines remains unknown.

The good news is that as of September 13, 2024, no lead (or galvanized requiring replacement) service lines have been identified within the distribution system. Additionally, Maine plumbing code has prohibited the use of lead pipes for service lines since 1926 and KWD's 2024 lead testing results were well below the federal action level.

Because the material of the service line feeding your home or business has yet to be identified, we are required to report your service as "UNKNOWN." Because the material is "UNKNOWN" there is a possibility that the service line is made of lead or galvanized requiring replacement.

If you have questions regarding the initial service line inventory, want to verify your service line material, or believe a service line may have been categorized incorrectly, please visit our website at www.kennebecwater.org/SLI or contact us by phone at 207-872-2763.

Yours for safe drinking water,

Roger Crouse,
General Manager

Required Information for “Lead Status Unknown” Service Lines

There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups, especially pregnant women, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Some of the health effects to infants and children include decreased IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can also result in new or worsened learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy may be at increased risk of those harmful health effects. Adults have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems. Contact your health care provider for more information about your risks. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA’s website at <http://www.epa.gov/lead>, or contact your health care provider.



If you are concerned about your risk of lead exposure in drinking water, following are steps you can take to reduce the risk:

- 1) Run the water for at least 15 seconds or until it becomes noticeably colder before using it for drinking or cooking. The longer water sits in piping the more lead it may contain.
- 2) Use cold water for drinking and cooking, as well as for preparing baby formula. Hot water dissolves lead more quickly than cold water.
- 3) Boiling water does not reduce lead levels.
- 4) Consider using bottled water for drinking and cooking.
- 5) If you are concerned about lead, contact your health care provider or the Maine Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (866-292-3474). You can ask about having you or your child tested for lead.