

What the City is Doing

- ✓ Maintains a public GIS database of service line materials.
- ✓ Manages a point-of-use filter program and promotes post-construction lead testing—free to residents adjacent to water main replacement.
- ✓ Distributes resident notifications and provides public education.
- ✓ Supports resident-initiated service replacement—City will replace public portion of water service for free if resident replaces private portion.
- ✓ Tests drinking fountains in parks and community centers. If levels are above 5 ppb, fixtures are retrofitted or replaced.
- ✓ Provides a 0% interest lead service replacement loan for replacement during water main replacement.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- **Flush.** Let water run two minutes before first use.
- **Clean** your faucet aerators.
- **Use cold water** for drinking and cooking.
- **Find out** if you have a lead service line through the City's GIS database.
- **Have your water tested** for lead by an independent lab.
- **Use** a point-of-use filter if you have a lead service line or old brass fixtures.
- **Replace** your lead service line and old brass fixtures.

What Contributes to Lead Consumption?

- Paint (1992, Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act)
- Leaded gasoline
- Contaminated dust
- Contaminated soil
- Painted toys
- Household furniture
- Imported lead glazed pottery and leaded crystal
- Lead smelters
- Cosmetics
- Plumbing



DID YOU KNOW . . .

According to the EPA, the most likely exposure to lead is swallowing lead paint chips or breathing in lead paint dust.

www.epa.gov/lead/protect-your-family-exposures-lead

For Information on Lead Testing

www.cityofevanston.org/lead

For the Evanston GIS Database of Service Lines

maps.cityofevanston.org/mapgallery/

For Information on Water Filters

www.nsf.org/newsroom/consumer-guide-to-nsf-international-certified-lead-filtration-devices

For Information on Lead Testing

<https://www.cityofevanston.org/home/showdocument?id=3182>

Understanding Lead and Your Drinking Water

City of Evanston **Public Works Agency**



History

Drinking Water Regulations

Lead concentration in water is limited by the Lead and Copper Rule (part of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 1991) to less than **15** parts per billion (ppb).

For reference, 15 ppb is equivalent to one second in 2.1 years.

Before 1991, regulations said concentrations must be less than 50 ppb.



Did You Know . . .

Exposure to lead-contaminated water alone wouldn't be likely to elevate blood lead levels in most adults. Risk will vary, however, depending on the individual, the circumstances, and the amount of water consumed.

www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/tips/water.htm

Water Service Lines

There are **14,468** metered water services in Evanston (2017).

For decades, virtually all residential water service lines were made of lead pipes. In **1980**, lead service lines were banned in new construction.

~85% of the homes in Evanston were built before 1980 and may still have a lead service line.

www.bestplaces.net/housing/city/illinois/evanston

Drinking Water



Awareness . . .

The City of Evanston is aware of the potential hazard that can occur when lead makes its way into your drinking water.

The City's goal is to minimize this exposure.



How Does Lead Get In Drinking Water?

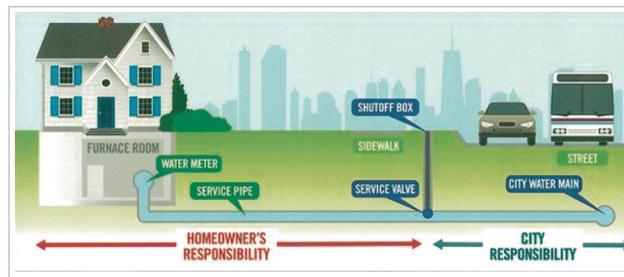
Water leaving the Water Plant **does not contain lead.**

Lead can enter the water before you drink it through corrosion of household plumbing materials.

EXAMPLES INCLUDE:

- Older brass fixtures and valves, old solder (where pipes are joined).
- Water service line (see below for homeowner's responsibility vs. City responsibility).

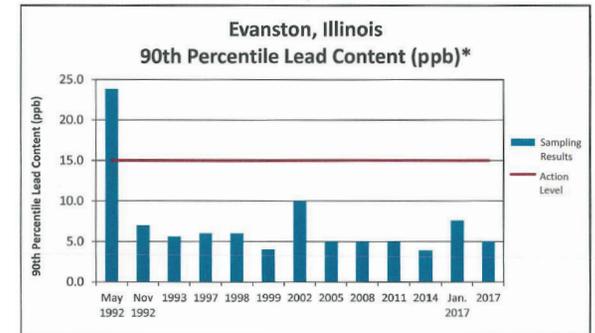
Typical Service Pipe Ownership Responsibility



Testing

In 1992, Evanston initiated the use of blended phosphate treatment for **corrosion control**. This **minimizes** the amount of lead that can seep into the water from fixtures and service lines.

After initiation, lead content has consistently been well below 10 ppb.



* Of water samples taken from homes with lead service lines, 90% had lead levels at or below the level shown for each year.



Should I drink bottled water instead of tap water?

No—not if you have treated tap water in Evanston.

Lake Michigan water undergoes treatment overseen by qualified water plant operators and laboratory personnel.

Tap water is highly regulated!