



## TOWN OF BETHEL – UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

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### Get the Lead Out!

New regulations require water utilities to prepare an inventory of all water service lines in their system (the line from the water main to the structure).

Bethel Water Department (BWD) has recently completed the mandatory Initial Service Line Material Inventory required by the EPA based on the information currently available. Your water service has been classified as **“Galvanized Requiring Replacement”**. The information on the attached notice is language required to be sent to all properties with “Galvanized Requiring Replacement” services.

The BWD inventory has not identified any lead service lines to date. It determined that many of the BWD portion of service lines between the water main and the curb shut off valve are copper service lines.

**You can assist BWD in verifying your service line material** by calling our staff at 203-794-8549 or sending an email to [publicworks@bethel-ct.gov](mailto:publicworks@bethel-ct.gov) to set up an appointment to verify the service line that enters your structure. This is the pipe that enters your foundation wall or floor before the water meter or any other fittings. The inspection only takes a few minutes and there is no cost to you.

Please visit our website at [www.bethel-ct.gov/leadinfo](http://www.bethel-ct.gov/leadinfo) for further information regarding lead in drinking water and BWD’s compliance regarding lead and copper.

Bethel Water Department appreciates your assistance in helping us make Bethel Lead Free!

Thank you.



## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

Bethel Water Department is focused on protecting the health of every household in our community. This notice contains important information about your drinking water. Please share this information with anyone who drinks and/or cooks using water at this property. In addition to people directly served at this property, this can include people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, businesses, as well as parents served by childcare at this property. Bethel Water Department has determined that a portion or the entire water pipe (called a service line) that connects your structure to the water main is made from **galvanized material** and may have absorbed lead. EPA has defined these service lines as “galvanized requiring replacement”<sup>1</sup>. Our records either indicate that lead service line pipe may be present or might have been present in the past. If you have information that could help us better describe your service line, contact us at (203) 794-8549 or [publicutilities@bethel-ct.gov](mailto:publicutilities@bethel-ct.gov), and we will update our records accordingly.

Galvanized service lines that have absorbed lead can contribute to lead in drinking water. People living in homes with a galvanized service line that has absorbed lead may have an increased risk of exposure to lead from their drinking water. The galvanized service at this location has been identified downstream of an unknown service line that may have contained lead or is downstream of a copper service line that may have been previously an unknown service line that had previously contained lead.

### **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, and kidney, or nervous system problems.<sup>2</sup>*

### **Steps you can take to reduce lead in drinking water.**

Below are recommended actions that you may take, separately or in combination, if you are concerned about lead in your drinking water. The list also includes where you may find more information and is not intended to be a complete list or to imply that all actions equally reduce lead in drinking water.

**Use filters properly.** Using a filter can reduce lead in drinking water. If you use a filter, it should be certified to remove lead. Read any directions provided with the filter to learn how to properly install, maintain, and use your cartridge and when to replace it. Using the cartridge after it has expired can make it less effective at removing lead. Do not run hot water through the filter. For more information on facts and advice on home water filtration systems, see EPA’s <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/consumer-tool-identifying-point-use-and-pitcher-filters-certified-reduce-lead>.

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<sup>1</sup> Refers to 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.

<sup>2</sup> Text in italics is required and cannot be changed.

**Clean your aerator.** Regularly clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator). Sediment, debris, and lead particles can collect in your aerator. If lead particles are caught in the aerator, lead can get into your water.

**Use cold water.** Do not use hot water from the tap for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula as lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Boiling water does not remove lead from water.

**Run your water.** The more time water has been sitting in pipes providing water to your home, the more lead it may contain. Before drinking, flush your home's pipes by running the tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or doing a load of dishes. 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

**Learn about construction in your neighborhood.** Contact us at (203) 794-8549 to find out about any construction or maintenance work that could disturb your service line. Construction may cause more lead to be released from a lead service line or galvanized service line if present.

**Have your water tested.** Contact us, your water utility, at (203) 794-8549 to get information regarding certified laboratories to have your water tested and to learn more about the lead levels in your drinking water. You may contact a certified laboratory to have your water tested for lead and we can provide a list of certified laboratories. Note, a water sample may not adequately capture or represent all sources of lead that may be present. For information on sources of lead that include service lines and interior plumbing, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water#getinto>.

### **Get your child tested to determine lead levels in their blood.**

A family doctor or pediatrician can perform a blood test for lead and provide information about the health effects of lead. State, city, or county departments of health can also provide information about how you can have your child's blood tested for lead. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends public health actions when the level of lead in a child's blood is 3.5 micrograms per deciliter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ ) or more. Please visit the [Connecticut Lead Poisoning Prevention and Control Program](#) and the CDC's [Recommended Actions Based on Blood Lead Level](#) for information on these actions.

### **Replacing galvanized requiring replacement service lines**

If you are planning on replacing the portion of the service line that you own, please notify us at (203)794-8549 or [publicworks@bethel-ct.gov](mailto:publicworks@bethel-ct.gov)

**For more information about opportunities for replacement and potential financing solutions** to assist property owners with replacement of lead service lines, please contact us at (203) 794-8549.

**For more information on reducing lead exposure** from your drinking water and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/lead>.