



## 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 “**Lead Status Unknown**”. The information on the attached notice is language required to be sent to all properties with “Lead Status Unknown” 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. However, the services made from unknown materials need to be verified to comply with the regulations.

**You can assist BWD in identifying your service line material by doing a self-evaluation of the pipe entering your structure.** Customers can identify the type of pipe by following the few simple steps outlined on the instructions noted on our website at the bottom of the page at following link: [bethel-ct.gov/leadinfo](http://bethel-ct.gov/leadinfo) It must be on the pipe as it enters the foundation wall or floor before the water meter or any other fittings. Please take a photo of the pipe and include it in an email to [publicworks@bethel-ct.gov](mailto:publicworks@bethel-ct.gov). **The email should include the type of pipe, size of pipe, photo and address of the property.**

If you need assistance or would like a BWD employee to inspect and verify the type of pipe at no cost to you, **please call our staff at 203-794-8549 or email a request to [publicworks@bethel-ct.gov](mailto:publicworks@bethel-ct.gov) to set up an appointment.**

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 is working to identify service line materials throughout the water system and has determined that the water pipe (called a service line) that connects your structure to the water main is made from **unknown material** but may be lead. Because your service line material is unknown, there is the potential that some or all of the service line could be made of lead or galvanized pipe that was previously connected to lead. People living in homes with a lead or galvanized pipe previously connected to a lead service line have an increased risk of exposure to lead from their drinking water.

### **Identifying service line material**

To help determine the material of your service line, please contact Bethel Water Department at (203) 794-8549. EPA has developed an online step-by-step guide to help people identify lead pipes in their homes called Protect Your Tap: A Quick Check for Lead. It is available at: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/protect-your-tap-quick-check-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>1</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>.

**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.

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<sup>1</sup> Text in italics is required and cannot be changed.

**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 what your service line material is.** Contact us at (203) 794-8549 or a licensed plumber to determine if the pipe that connects your home to the water main (called a service line) is made from lead, galvanized, or other materials. [Protect Your Tap: A quick check for lead](#) is EPA's on-line step by step guide to learn how to find lead pipes 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.**

Although there is no confirmation of having a lead service line, you may wish to speak with a healthcare provider to see if your child's blood lead level is elevated and/or if there is a need for blood testing, if you are concerned about potential exposure. 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.

**For information about 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>.