



Village of Lena

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Lena Water Utility failed to adequately complete and make accessible to you the inventory of water service material lines

Our water system recently violated a drinking water requirement. Even though this is **not an emergency**, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We were required to complete and make publicly accessible a materials inventory of service lines for our distribution system by October 16, 2024. Lena Water Utility did not complete an adequate initial inventory of service line materials in our distribution system to the WDNR, indicating which service lines are made of lead, galvanized requiring replacement, unknown, or non-lead materials and did not make our initial inventory of service line materials in our distribution system publicly accessible.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours. **This is an informational letter only, to make you aware of the violation.** Typically, lead enters water supplies by leaching from lead pipes, brass faucets, plumbing with leaded solder, and other plumbing components containing lead. In homes with lead pipes that connect the home to the water main, also known as lead services lines, these pipes are typically the most significant source of lead in the water. Lead pipes are more likely to be found in older cities and homes built before 1986. Service lines made of galvanized iron or steel that are (or were previously) downstream of lead service lines are classified as galvanized requiring replacement (GRR). Identifying and ultimately removing lead and GRR service lines is an important way to protect public health. To find out about what we are doing to identify lead service lines, please contact Terry at 920-373-5324, Tyler at 920-373-5290, or the Village Hall at 920-829-5226. Among homes without lead service lines, the most common problem is with brass or chrome-plated brass faucets and plumbing with lead solder.

What is being done?

- We completed the initial service line inventory, are making the proper reporting changes, and have made the inventory publicly accessible at the Lena Village Hall for your viewing.
- You will be directly notified if test results for your service line indicate lead concentrations exceed the federal threshold.

What should I do?

Listed below are some general steps we all can take to reduce exposure to lead:

- Learn what your service line and premise plumbing material is. Find out if the pipe that connects from your home to the water main (called a service line) is made from lead,

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galvanized, or other materials. Ask your water utility or if your utility doesn't have information a licensed plumber may be able to assist. [Protect Your Tap: A quick check for lead](#) is EPA's step by step guide to learn how to find lead pipes in your home.

- Learn about construction in your neighborhood. Unless your service line is not made of lead or galvanized you should be aware of any nearby construction or maintenance work that could disturb the line. Ground tremors from construction may suddenly cause more lead to be released from lead service lines in the area
- Use your filter properly. Using a filter can reduce lead in drinking water. If you use a filter, make sure you use a filter certified to remove lead. Read the directions to learn how to properly install 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.
- 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. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking and making baby formula. Remember, boiling water does not remove lead from water.
- Run your water. The more time water has been sitting in pipes, 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, and the length of the lead service line. Residents should contact their water utility for recommendations about flushing times in their community.
- Have your water tested. Contact your water utility to have your water tested and to learn more about the lead levels in your drinking water.

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.

Please share this information with all other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools and businesses. You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

For more information, please contact our Public Works Department, Terry at 920-373-5324, Tyler at 920-373-5290, or the Village Hall at 920-829-5226.

This notice is being sent to you by Lena Water Utility. State Public Water System (PWS) ID# 44304931.

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