



# City of East Palo Alto

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## Public Works Department

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

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.

Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

**As required by U.S. EPA, City of East Palo Alto has identified that your water service connection is considered a **Lead Status Unknown service line.****

The City of East Palo Alto recently conducted an inventory of all water service lines within the City of East Palo Alto public water system which is the pipe that connects your home, building, or other structure to the water main. The purpose of the inventory is to identify the material of these service lines and fittings, including the customer-owned side of the water service line.

The pipe that connects your home, building, or other structure to the water main was identified as unknown material. Lead service lines or certain galvanized pipe can potentially place you at risk for exposure to lead; therefore, any service line that is confirmed to be lead or certain galvanized pipe will need to be replaced. At this time, there is no evidence that lead or certain galvanized pipe exist within the water system; however, the City is working with the State to ensure a plan is in place to verify the results of the lead service line inventory as required by the State and the USEPA.

The City of East Palo Alto routinely monitors for lead in the distribution system and the most recent water sample results received on August 2023 showed that the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of all lead levels measured in the distribution system was under the action level. The action level for lead in drinking water is 0.015 milligrams per liter (mg/L) or 15 micrograms per liter (µg/L).

- The most recent water sample results Do Not exceed the action level of 0.015 mg/L set by U.S. EPA for lead.
- This letter does NOT include pipes maintained by Palo Alto Park Mutual or in the O'Conner water systems which are also within the City of East Palo Alto. If you have any questions regarding either of those water systems, please contact them directly.

### Is my water affected?

**\* If you received a separate notice instructing you to not drink, boil, or avoid drinking your water, then please continue following those instructions until you are instructed to do otherwise.**

If you **did not** receive any separate notice:

- This is NOT an emergency.
- Your water is Safe to Drink and meets federal and state safe drinking water standards.
- You do not need to use an alternative water supply (e.g., bottled water).

### What about my service line?

- If your service line is categorized as a lead status unknown composition, you can help your public water system identify your service line material.
  - 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. (<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/protect-your-tap-quick-check-lead>)
  - Other organizations have also provided tools to identify service line material, such as the LSLR Collaborative (<https://www.lslr-collaborative.org/identifying-service-line-material.html>)
- Inform us immediately if you plan to alter or replace your service line because we may be required to replace the system portion.
- Please contact us immediately if you feel that we have incorrectly categorized the service line material.

Contact [City of East Palo Alto Water](#) at 650-322-2083 or [eastpaloaltowater@veolia.com](mailto:eastpaloaltowater@veolia.com) to inform us if your service line has been incorrectly categorized to share any information you may find about your service line, or to inform us of your plans to alter or replace your service line.

## What happens next?

The City of East Palo Alto is committed to providing safe drinking water to all its customers by following all Federal and State regulations. The State Water Resource Control Board, in alignment with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), enforces the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR). To ensure public water systems are reducing lead exposure to their customers, the SWRCB & the U.S. EPA are requiring all large public water purveyors to complete a Lead Service Line Inventory (LSL Inventory). The objective of the LSL Inventory is to determine if there are any lead pipes in the water distribution system on both the public and customer (private) portions of the water service line. This initial inventory must be completed and submitted by October 16, 2024; however, the City of East Palo Alto anticipates data collection to continue through 2025.

To determine the material of the water service line, the City of East Palo Alto and its contractors may perform the following:

- Use hand tools to excavate the area in and around the water meter box.
- Perform scratch tests on the pipe to determine the pipe material.
- Document pipe material with photos.
- Record pipe material at the water meter box as well as the nearest spigot or hose bib.

The City of East Palo Alto and its contractors will be working mostly in the area around the water meter box and the closest water spigot after the meter box.

## Lead Related Health Information

- *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 cause 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.*
- If you have concerns about your water quality, the State Water Board's Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program has a [map of laboratories](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/labs/) that can test your water at the consumer's expense, which can be found at:  
[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/certlic/labs/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/labs/)
- If you still have health concerns from potential lead exposure in your drinking water, there are point-of-use (POU) devices that can be used on your drinking water taps to provide an additional barrier of protection. A list of these residential treatment devices can be found at:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/certlic/device/watertreatmentdevices.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/device/watertreatmentdevices.html)

- If you have other health issues concerning the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult your health care provider.

### **Additional Resources**

To replace [lead or galvanized requiring replacement service lines](#), to verify the material of an [unknown service line](#), for information on financial programs to assist with service line replacements or for any other information, contact [City of East Palo Alto Water](#) at 650-322-2083 or [eastpaloaltowater@veolia.com](mailto:eastpaloaltowater@veolia.com)

Please share this information with all the 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 public notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by: [City of East Palo Alto](#)

State Water System Number: [CA4110024](#)

Date distributed: **within 30 days of LSLI submittal**