

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

# LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

Lead is not found in Cedarburg's source water. Lead in drinking water comes from lead water service pipes and brass fittings within your faucets and fixtures. Cedarburg Light & Water Utility is working with the City of Cedarburg to replace all public and private water service lines that contain lead within the City of Cedarburg through the Lead Water Service Line Replacement Program. Read on for answers to some frequently asked questions.

### **Q. What is the difference between public and private side lead service lines?**

**A.** The section of the water service line from the water main to the curb stop in your front yard is considered public and the responsibility of the Utility. The section of water service line from the curb stop in your front yard to the water meter inside your home (this includes all plumbing except for the water meter inside the property) is considered private property and the responsibility of the property owner.

### **Q. How do I know if my water service line contains lead?**

**A.** Homes built before 1955 are known to have lead water services. Some of these services, or parts of the services, may have been replaced over the years.

CL&W retains water service cards which have information related to the installation date and pipe material from the time the service was installed, but the Utility may not have up-to-date information if the service has been replaced. The Utility has a list of approximately 500 suspected lead service lines, please call us if you have questions regarding your home/business. All property owners and tenants with suspected lead water service lines will be notified by mail.

### **Q. I have lead service, is my water safe to drink?**

**A.** Yes. Lead is not found in Cedarburg's source water. Lead comes from the water service lines running between the water main in the street and the home, and from plumbing inside the home. When water stands for several hours or more in fixtures or pipes that contain lead, the lead may leach into the water.

In 1991, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a regulation to control lead and copper in drinking water, known as the [Lead and Copper Rule](#). The regulation requires systems to monitor drinking water at customer taps. CL&W is required to conduct sampling for lead in customers' homes based on a percentage of lead service lines. To keep lead from entering the water, the EPA requires the Utility to treat drinking water using chemicals that keep the lead in place by reducing corrosion. The Utility has been in full compliance with all lead requirements and

CALL US AT 262-375-7650 FOR MORE INFORMATION

we continue to monitor lead levels ever three years as part of our State of Wisconsin drinking water compliance sample protocol.

## Q. How do I know how much lead is in Cedarburg's drinking water?

**A.** CL&W routinely monitors the City's drinking water according to federal and state laws. The federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) sets limits on allowable levels for contaminants in drinking water; as well as monitoring and reporting requirements. The Utility collected over 200 water samples last year, with all results coming back safe or below the specified Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). For specific information, check out the annual [Water Quality Report](#) on the CL&W website. The [Department of Natural Resources](#) Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater carries out the program in Wisconsin.

## Q. Do I have to replace my lead service?

**A.** Yes, on January 29, 2024, the City of Cedarburg Common Council passed [Ordinance No. 2024-01](#), requiring lead service line replacement.

## Q. What is the Lead Water Service Line Replacement Program?

**A.** A Lead Water Service Line Replacement program has been created with financing, [Ordinance No. 2024-02](#), to assist with the cost of private side lead service line replacement. For 2024, a low interest loan has been secured. Property owners have the option to pay for the lead service replacement up front or take advantage of the financing option. There is no way of knowing what the program will look like in the future; however, we will continue to explore all options available for future financial assistance..

## Q. How much will this cost me?

**A.** For projects scheduled in 2024, the average cost to replace private side lead service was quoted between \$6,000 - \$8,000. Costs may be greater or less than estimated due to many factors including soil conditions, conflicts with other underground utilities, and the condition of the existing service.

## Q. What is the utility doing to help keep down the cost of this project?

**A.** The utility is working closely with the City Engineer to coordinate street projects and lead service replacement. The City of Cedarburg has secured a low interest federal loan for 2024 to assist with the cost of replacing lead services. We will continue to explore all options available for future financial assistance.

## Q. When will my lead service be replaced?

**A.** The utility is working closely with the City of Cedarburg to coordinate lead service line replacement with annual street and utility replacement projects. Once street projects have been approved, property owners in the area with lead service lines will receive a letter detailing lead service line replacement.

## **Q. I live in an apartment building, will my lead lines be replaced?**

**A.** All property owners with a suspected lead service line have been notified. Please contact your apartment manager or property owner.

## **Q. How can I go about getting my property's drinking water tested for lead?**

**A.** There are several certified drinking water testing laboratories in Wisconsin. Visit the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources website at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/DrinkingWater/laboratories.html> to locate a facility. Be sure to contact the laboratory before taking a sample, specific instructions need to be followed to achieve accurate results.

## **Q. What if I have questions or want more information?**

**A.** We are committed to keeping you informed about this project. We will provide regular updates at utility commission meetings and customer questions are always welcome. Please contact our Water Superintendent, Tim Martin, at 262-375-7650.