



# Service Line Rehabilitation Program

## Frequently Asked Questions



### ***What is a water service line?***

The water service line is the pipe that connects your home (or business?) to the City's water main in the street. The City is responsible for the portion of the service line from the water main in the street to the property line. The property owner is responsible for the portion of the service from the property line to the home.

### ***What is the difference between any galvanized service line and the “galvanized required replacement” service lines indicated in this notification?***

Service line pipes can be made of a variety of material. There are thousands of service lines made of galvanized metal within the City; this pipe material primarily was used on the private property portion of the service line.

A service line classified as “galvanized requiring replacement” (GRR) is a service line made of galvanized metal that, according to our records, was likely once connected to a lead pipe. GRRs are found on the private property portion of the service line. In Spokane, lead pipe materials were used mostly in locations that were built in the World War II era and completed in 1946 when copper wasn't as readily available. The City completed removal of all lead pipes in its system in 2018.

### ***Why are you providing information about GRRs?***

There is a chance that a GRR line may have absorbed lead. In compliance with new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rules, we are sending you this information so you can make decisions appropriate for you and your family. Replacing these pipes eliminates a potential contamination source.



### ***What are the 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 worsen existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these negative health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, and kidney, or nervous system problems.

### ***Is our water tested for lead?***

Yes. Testing for lead in the home is conducted every three years following Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements. Additionally, each year more than 2,000 tests are performed on Spokane's water for 200 various contaminants. Your water has met and exceeded all state and federal regulations governing the safety of drinking water. The **results for these tests have been in compliance since 1992** below the current limit of 15 parts per billion (PPB) for lead **and** below the newly introduced limit of 10 PPB.

### ***Is there a way to have my water tested for lead?***

Yes. As always, if a person is concerned about the quality of water at their residence or business for any reason (color, taste, smell), they can call the Water Department at (509) 742-8154 or email [waterinfo@spokanecity.org](mailto:waterinfo@spokanecity.org).

*Note*, a water sample may not adequately capture or represent all sources of lead that may be present in a home. For information on sources of lead that include service lines and interior plumbing, please visit [EPA.gov/lead](http://EPA.gov/lead). The Washington state Department of Health reports that lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust are the main sources of lead exposure. Houses built before 1978 are likely to contain lead-based paint. More information on lead-based paints is found on the web at the [EPA Renovation, Repair and Painting page](#) or the [Washington State Lead-Based Paint program](#).

### ***What are the options for replacing my “galvanized requiring replacement” service line?***

GRRs are located on private property portion of the service line. The property owner is responsible for maintaining and replacing pipes on their property. If you are planning on replacing the portion of the service line that you own, please notify us at City of Spokane Water Department by emailing [waterinfo@spokanecity.org](mailto:waterinfo@spokanecity.org).

The City has a loan program to help low-income residents with water and sewer repairs. For more information on eligibility requirements and **how to access funding contact SNAP at [Danny.Shea@snapwa.org](mailto:Danny.Shea@snapwa.org) or call (509) 456-7627.**

[kdavis@spokanecity.org](mailto:kdavis@spokanecity.org) البريد الإلكتروني للترجمة العربية

Отправьте [kdavis@spokanecity.org](mailto:kdavis@spokanecity.org) по электронной почте для перевода на русский язык.

Correo electrónico [kdavis@spokanecity.org](mailto:kdavis@spokanecity.org) para traducción al español.

Email [kdavis@spokanecity.org](mailto:kdavis@spokanecity.org) cho bản dịch tiếng Việt.

