



Informational Notice

You are receiving this notice because we have identified your home as one of the 25 percent of Olympia Fields properties that may have a lead service line in need of replacement.

The IEPA now requires that all Illinois municipalities, including Olympia Fields, provide notice to property owners within their boundaries who have a known or suspected lead water service line requiring replacement. The service line replacement process may affect the lead concentrations in your drinking water. Lead, a metal found in natural deposits, is harmful to human health, especially young children and pregnant women. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that can carry oxygen to all parts of the body. The most common exposure to lead is swallowing or breathing in lead paint chips and dust. However, lead in drinking water can also be a source of lead exposure.

In the past, lead was used in some water service lines and household plumbing materials. Lead in water usually occurs through corrosion of plumbing products containing lead; however, disruption (construction or maintenance) of lead service lines may also temporarily increase lead levels in the water supply. This disruption may sometimes be caused by water main maintenance/replacement. The following information provides some preventative measures you can take to help reduce the amount of lead in drinking water.

Steps you can take to reduce lead exposure from a lead service line:

- Do not boil water to remove lead; boiling water will not reduce lead.
- If you have a lead service line, run your water to flush out lead; flushing times can vary based on the length of your lead service line and the plumbing configuration in your home. Flushing for at least 3–5 minutes is recommended.
- Use cold water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula. Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
- Look for alternative sources or treatment of water. Consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter that is certified to remove “total lead.”
- Clean and remove any debris from faucet aerators on a regular basis.
- Purchase lead-free faucets and plumbing components.
- Test your water for lead. Refer to the information contained in this notice to find out how to have your water tested for lead.
- If test results indicate a lead level above 15 ug/L, bottled water should be used by pregnant women, breast-feeding women, young children, and formula-fed infants.
- Please review the materials contained in this notice, including the FAQs and feel free to contact the Olympia Fields Department of Public Works at 708-503-8200 for additional information about the Lead Service Line Replacement and Notification Act requirements at:
<https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/drinking-water/public-water-users/lead-service-line-information.html>.