



Lead Service Line Replacement Program

Getting the Lead Out

Overview

To ensure that our water is free of harmful contaminants and impurities, the Village, led by its Department of Public Works (DPW), adheres to strict Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) water testing and reporting guidelines.

The Lead Service Line Replacement and Notification Act (415 ILCS 5/17.12) requires municipalities to identify and inventory the lead service lines within their boundaries. The Act also mandates the implementation of a comprehensive, multi-year lead service line replacement plan.

In compliance with the timelines set forth by the Act, the Village, in 2023, submitted a general list of areas that could possibly have lead service lines. We are currently collecting data and developing a more detailed inventory of lead and unknown service lines, and we submitted a preliminary replacement plan to the IEPA in August 2024. The inventory, which will be updated regularly until the date of final plan submission in April 2027, will categorize the water service lines as either lead, copper, galvanized steel, or of unknown composition (requiring further investigation).

Lead and galvanized steel lines **must** be replaced. Based on the results of our service line data collection, to date, we are providing written notification to property owners who may require a service line replacement.



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FAQs: What You Need to Know

What Is a Water Service Line?

Service lines are the pipes that carry and deliver water from the Village-owned portion of the water main into your home. These lines can be made of lead, copper, galvanized steel, or other materials such as PVC or brass.

Does My Home Have Lead Pipes?

If your home was built prior to 1986, there is a possibility that its pipes may comprise lead or galvanized steel. Included with this notice is a map that identifies those areas of the Village with lead service lines or service lines of unknown composition.

Who Is Responsible for the Service Line Replacement?

In Olympia Fields, the entire water service line from the residential structure to the point at which it connects with the Village-owned water main, is the property of the homeowner. Accordingly, the maintenance, repair, and replacement of the water service line is the responsibility of the homeowner.



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FAQs: What You Need to Know *(Continued)*

How Does Lead Get Into My Drinking Water?

Lead can enter drinking water due to the corrosion of pipes, service lines, plumbing fixtures, fittings, and solder that contain lead. See the enclosed Informational Notice for more information.

How Do I Have My Water Tested for Lead?

Residents may contact a private company of their choice (at their own expense) to have their water tested for lead. The following contractors offer private water testing services (this list is not exhaustive and is provided as a courtesy and should not be construed as a recommendation of these service providers):

First Environmental Laboratories, Inc.

1600 Shore Road
Naperville, IL 60563
630-778-1200
www.firstenv.com
\$30 per sample

Suburban Laboratories, Inc.

1950 S. Batavia Avenue, Ste. 150
Geneva, IL 60134
708-544-3260 x214
www.drinkingwaterlabs.com
\$100 per sample

www.mytapscore.com

\$52-plus per sample





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FAQs: What You Need to Know *(Continued)*

What Is the Average Cost of a Service Line Replacement?

Per the US EPA, the average cost of a water service line replacement can range from \$4,700 to \$10,000. However, those costs can fluctuate depending on certain variables. The Village will be negotiating with several certified lead service line replacement contractors to potentially secure a group rate for Olympia Fields property owners.

How Will the Lead Service Line Replacement Occur?

The replacement of lead service lines will take place in one of the following ways:

- The property owner initiates the service line replacement, at their own expense and at a time of their choosing, by hiring one of the certified contractors vetted by the Village.
- Upon the sale of their home, the property owner hires one of the certified contractors vetted by the Village to replace the service line OR the buyer agrees to assume the cost of the service line replacement. The Village **will not** issue a Certificate of Occupancy without proof of a lead service line replacement.
- Upon discovery of a lead service line during the repair of a water main, the Village will hire one of the vetted certified contractors to replace the service line; the property owner will reimburse the Village for the cost.





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FAQs: What You Need to Know *(Continued)*

Does the Village of Olympia Fields Test for Lead?

Yes. Per IEPA Lead and Copper Rule guidelines, we annually submit 20-80 water samples to an IEPA-approved lab that tests for lead and copper content. Our water consistently meets with IEPA lead-level guidelines. Please refer to the Village's most recent 2023 Consumer Confidence Water Quality Report (CCR) on the Village's website at www.olympia-fields.com for more information.

Who Monitors the Village's Water Supply to Ensure Its Safety?

The Village employs a full-time Responsible Officer in Charge (ROIC) who holds a Class C water license; in conjunction with the IEPA, the ROIC oversees the Village's water distribution system including treatment and testing processes.

Who Should I Call for More Information about Lead Service Line Replacement?

Contact the Olympia Fields Department of Public Works with any questions at 708-503-8200.





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FAQs: What You Need to Know *(Continued)*

How Will Residents Be Notified About the Lead Service Line Program?

A key component of the Village's Lead Service Line Replacement Program centers around public outreach, notification, and education. In addition to this notice, which is being mailed to affected property owners, the Village will also communicate program information via:

- Updated FAQ documents
- Door-to-Door solicitations
- Point-of-Sale home inspections
- Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) website information (available beginning the 4th quarter of 2024)
- Facebook and other social media platforms
- Targeted emails to legacy subdivisions (subdivisions comprising housing older than 1986)
- Targeted phone calls and emails to affected property owners
- Water main repair projects



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Will the Village Offer Financial Help to Homeowners to Offset Replacement Costs?

The Village of Olympia Fields has developed a 50/50 shared-cost LSLR grant, available on a first come, first served basis, to Village property owners whose homes are located in legacy communities that have been identified as having a lead service line. Property owners will be able to apply beginning in 2025. Once the grant period opens, more information about the grant will be forthcoming.

How Will the Village Handle Areas with Unknown Service Lines?

The lead service line identification process is ongoing. The Village will continue to verify the composition of water service lines in those areas classified as unknown through:

- DPW field staff water meter and service work observations
- Water main break repair projects
- New construction permitting process
- Residential inspections

