

Lead Water Pipes: Overview, Removal

This is a fact sheet developed by the Middleborough Water Department for informational purposes. Should you have questions, please reach out to: **Michael Bumpus, Water Superintendent, at 508-946-2482 or MBumpus@Middleboroughma.gov**



Providing safe, reliable water supply for Middleborough consumers is our top priority. To make sure that your water meets all state and federal safety standards, we analyze more than 200 water samples every year for a wide range of contaminants, including lead. Lead is not in our water sources but in some cases can be found in the distribution system piping. Lead piping and plumbing materials were commonly used in water systems until the 1950s and in household plumbing into the early 1980s. Ingestion of lead can pose health risks.

To protect public health, in 1996, the USEPA mandated the treatment of water through the Safe Drinking Water Act to reduce the possibility of dissolving lead into drinking water. Since being enacted, the Water Department has met and exceeded these requirements.

On December 16, 2021, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced next steps to further reduce exposure to lead in drinking water. The EPA has imposed requirements that, along with other actions,

require water systems to inventory and continue replacing all remaining service lines containing lead by October 2024.

The Water Department has routinely been replacing lead services as they are encountered, already has a Lead Service Line Compliance Program underway, and intends to proactively respond to EPA requirements. As we continue our program to inventory lead pipes, we will be reaching out to individual property owners to schedule an inspection of the existing water service pipe material as it enters your basement to confirm the plumbing materials in place. Further details and information about this may affect you will be provided as the program develops.

Visit www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/lead-and-copper-rule to learn more.