



## Public Notice of Unknown Service Lines

The City of Brenham is focused on protecting the health of every household in our community. This notice contains important information about your drinking water. Please share this information with anyone who drinks and/or cooks using water. In addition to people directly served, this can include people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, businesses, as well as childcare.

The City of Brenham is working to identify service lines (shown below) materials throughout the City owned water system and has determined < 10 % of service lines that connect to a residence, business, or structure to the water main are made from **unknown materials** that may consist of lead. Because these service line materials are unknown, there is the potential that some or all of the service lines could be made of lead or galvanized pipe that was previously connected to lead. People living in homes with a lead or galvanized pipe previously connected to a lead service line have an increased risk of exposure to lead from their drinking water. The City of Brenham staff has concluded the inspection of approximately 90% of the services located on the City's water system and intends to inspect your service in the very near future to determine if your service has lead or galvanized piping. This notice is being sent out as a requirement by TCEQ annually until the City is able to complete the inspection of all services within the City of Brenham's water system.



# The Following are Recommendations and Facts from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regarding Lead and its Affects

## Lead Service Line Inventory

To find information on your service line or other service lines in your neighborhood please visit:

<https://cityofbrenham.online/lsl>

## Identifying Service Line Material

To help determine the material of your service line, please contact via phone at 979-337-7400 or visit:

[https://www.cityofbrenham.org/city\\_government/departments/public\\_utilities/index.php#lead-copper](https://www.cityofbrenham.org/city_government/departments/public_utilities/index.php#lead-copper). EPA has developed an online step-by-step guide to help people identify lead pipes in their homes called Protect Your Tap: A Quick Check for Lead. It is available at: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/protect-your-tap-quick-check-lead>.

## 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 an increased risk of these negative health effects. Adults can have an increased risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems.

## Steps you can take to reduce lead in drinking water.

Below are recommended actions that you may take, separately or in combination, if you are concerned about lead in your drinking water. The list also includes where you may find more information and is not intended to be a complete list or to imply that all actions equally reduce lead in drinking water.

**Use filters properly.** Using a filter can reduce lead in drinking water. If you use a filter, it should be certified to remove lead. Read any directions provided with the filter to learn how to properly install, maintain, and use your cartridge and when to replace it. Using the cartridge after it has expired can make it less effective at removing lead. Do not run hot water through the filter. For more information on facts and advice on home water filtration systems, see EPA's <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/consumer-tool-identifying-point-use-and-pitcher-filters-certified-reduce-lead>.

**Clean your aerator.** Regularly clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator). Sediment, debris, and lead particles can collect in your aerator. If lead particles are caught in the aerator, lead can get into your water.

**Use cold water.** Do not use hot water from the tap for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula as lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Boiling water does not remove lead from water.

**Run your water.** The more time water has been sitting in pipes providing water to your home, the more lead it may contain. Before drinking, flush your home or business pipes by running the tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or doing a load of dishes. The amount of time to run the water will depend on whether your home or business has a lead service line or not, as well as the length and diameter of the service line and the amount of plumbing in your home or business. Residents may contact us at 979-337-7400 for recommendations about flushing times in their community.

**Learn what your service line material is.** Contact us at 979-337-7400 or a licensed plumber to determine if the pipe that connects your home to the water main (called a service line) is made from lead, galvanized, or other materials. To find out about what we are doing to replace lead service lines, please contact us at 979-337-7400 or email us at [utilitiesdispatch@cityofbrenham.org](mailto:utilitiesdispatch@cityofbrenham.org). **Protect Your Tap: A quick check for lead** ( <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/protect-your-tap-quick-check-lead-0> ) is EPA's on-line step by step guide to learn how to find lead pipes in your home.

**Learn about construction in your neighborhood.** Contact us at 979-337-7400 to find out about any construction or maintenance work that could disturb your service line. Construction may cause more lead to be released from a lead service line or galvanized service line if present.

**For more information on reducing lead exposure** from your drinking water and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/lead>.

