

# Notice of Confirmed Lead Service Line

Public Water System: CITY OF NATCHEZ, 0010002

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**CITY OF NATCHEZ 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 at this property. In addition to people directly served at this property, this can include people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, businesses, as well as parents served by childcare at this property.

**CITY OF NATCHEZ** has determined that a portion of or the entire water pipe (called a service line) that connects your home, building, or structure to the water main is made from **lead**. People living in homes with a lead service line may have an increased risk of exposure to lead from their drinking water.

**The figure below represents a typical scenario for a residence in many cases but does not represent all scenarios.**



## 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, 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 your filter 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, visit EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/consumer-tool-identifying-point-use-and-pitcher-filters-certified-reduce-lead>.

**Clean your aerator.** Regularly remove and 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's 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 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. Residents may contact us for recommendations about flushing times in your community.

**Learn about construction in your neighborhood.** Contact us 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.

**Have your water tested.** Contact us to learn more about the lead levels in your drinking water. Alternatively, you may contact a certified laboratory to have your water tested for lead. Certified laboratories in the state of Mississippi that analyze drinking water lead and copper samples and meet the EPA Safe Drinking Water Act requirements are the Mississippi Public Health Laboratory (601-576-7582) and Micro Methods Laboratory, Inc. (228-875-6420). Many other labs outside of Mississippi may provide Lead and Copper analytical services, but we recommend you verify the outside laboratory is certified and uses appropriate methods for analysis of Lead and Copper in Drinking Water. Note, a water sample may not adequately capture or represent all sources of lead that may be present. For information on sources of lead that include service lines and interior plumbing, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water#getinto>.

## Get your child tested to determine lead levels in their blood.

A family doctor or pediatrician can perform a blood test for lead and provide information about the health effects of lead. Call the Mississippi State Department of Health Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes Program at 601-576-7447 for more information about getting your child tested for lead. The

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends public health actions when the level of lead in a child's blood is 3.5 micrograms per deciliter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ ) or more. For more information and links to CDC's website, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>.

## Replacing lead service lines

If you are planning on replacing the portion of the service line that you own (on the customer side of the water meter), please notify us.

**For potential financing solutions, using the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)** to assist property owners with replacement of lead service lines, please contact us and request that we contact the Mississippi State Department of Health for more information.

**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>.