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Search: Boston buildings with lead service lines



By Matt Rocheleau

GLOBE STAFF APRIL 07, 2016

Boston buildings with lead service lines

Use the search bar on the top right of the table to look up an address. To see a map of these buildings, click here. (Note: The list includes some Brookline addresses located along the Boston border because they are served by the Boston Water and Sewer Commission)

| | Search: | |
|------------|--------------|--|
| Address | Neighborhood | |
| 1 Aldie St | Allston | |

If you suspect your property has a lead service line, here's what you can do

Officials suggest you consider the following:

- Check the list above. Note that the database of addresses may include some buildings that have already had their lead service lines replaced. The data also may not capture all buildings that have lead service lines. Any property with service lines installed prior to 1950 could have lead service lines, officials say.
- Contact the Boston Water and Sewer Commission to confirm whether your home has a lead service line. The commission says it will inspect any customer's service line if requested.
- Get your home's water tested at a lab that is certified by the state's Department of Environmental Protection. Being connected to a lead service line does not necessarily mean your water will have elevated lead levels.

• Run faucets on cold for 15 to 30 seconds to allow pipes to flush water out that may have been standing and is more likely to carry lead. This is particularly important if no water has been used from that faucet for several hours.

Do you have lead in your water? City of Boston wants to help

- Because it dissolves metals faster, avoid running hot water if you plan to drink, cook, make coffee, or otherwise consume it. If you need hot water, draw it cold from the tap and heat it on the stove.
- Replace pipes that have lead. If you are the property owner, call the Boston Water and Sewer Commission's lead hot line at 617-989-7888. Some homes may be eligible for <u>financial assistance</u> to have the lead lines replaced. Tenants whose building has a lead service line should contact their landlord or building manager.

Even if you do not have a lead service line, your water could still have elevated lead levels

Homes built before 1986 may have lead solder in their interior plumbing, and faucets made through 2013 may contain enough lead to contribute to elevated lead levels.

In fact, in the latest round of water testing in Boston — which included samplings drawn in September from 25 homes considered to be at risk for elevated lead levels — the lone home found to have lead levels exceeding federal standards is not believed to be connected to a lead service line, officials said.

Officials recommend that you consider the following:

• Replace plumbing fixtures that may contain lead with new ones that have zero or low lead levels.

- Have an electrician check your wiring. Corrosion within your plumbing that could release lead into the water may be greater when grounding wires from your home's electrical system are attached.
- Remove loose solder and debris from faucets by removing strainers from all taps and running the water for 3 to 5 minutes. Thereafter, periodically remove the strainers and flush out any debris that has accumulated.

Other options include the following:

- Use bottled water. However, officials warn that this option can be significantly more expensive than using tap water.
- Buy home treatment devices such as filters, reverse osmosis units, and distillers that have been independently verified as being able to reduce lead. The <u>National Sanitation Foundation</u> has more details on this option.

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