



## Notice of Unknown Service Line Composition - Frequently Asked Questions:

### 1. Why did I get this letter?

- a) The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and United States Environmental Protection Agency require all water systems to identify all water service line materials. In New Jersey, all water systems must replace any lead and galvanized lines by 2031. The Borough of Park Ridge has been working to identify and update its inventory since 2021.

Starting November 15, 2024, a new USEPA requirement went into effect that now requires water systems to notify people if their service line has not been completely identified yet (both the privately owned and publicly owned portions, as shown on the diagram in the letter you received).

The USEPA required certain information in the letter - specifically, the 'Health Effects of Lead' and 'Steps You Can Take to Reduce Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water' sections - since the material of your service line is unknown.

### 2. What do I need to do?

- a) The intent of the letter is to inform you, the customer, that your service line is either partially or completely of unknown material. This letter informs you, the customer, of this status and provides information regarding the potential health effects of exposure to lead and how to mitigate those risks.

The Park Ridge Water Department will continue to provide information as the Lead Service Line Replacement Program progresses. The Water Department will reach out to you to coordinate identification and replacement efforts. Until then, you can test your water for lead, share information about your service line with Park Ridge, and take precautions such as flushing the line.

### 3. What is Park Ridge Water doing about this?

We are continuing to work on updating our inventory and meet the New Jersey 2031 replacement deadline. Park Ridge has gone through its water main repair records, building records, and inspections during meter reading and replacements to develop its inventory to date.

We are working on a customer survey form on our website so that customers can help us update our inventory.

We routinely test for lead and copper in our system as required by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and USEPA, and have meet the Safe Drinking Water Standards. You can check our water quality results on our website in the "2024 Water Quality Report."

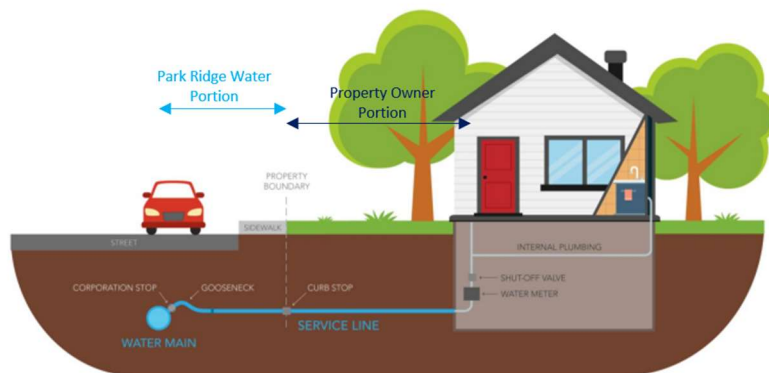
### 4. I want to have my water tested for lead. How do I do that?

- a) NJDEP has published a list of certified laboratories that can provide testing. We have attached a link to the list on our website:

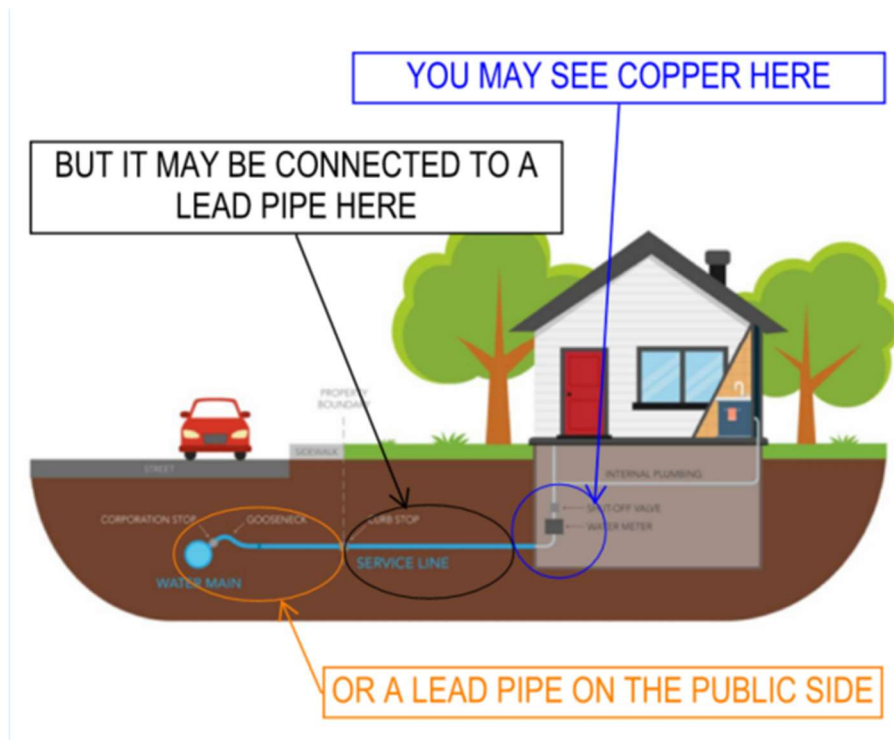
<https://www.parkridgeboro.com/government/news/574-notice-of-unknown-service-line-composition>

To access that list directly:

1. Go to <https://njems.nj.gov/DataMiner#>.
  2. On the “Home” tab, under “Search Options” on the right side of the screen, click “Search by Category.”
  3. Under “Report Category”, select “Certified Laboratories” from the dropdown menu.
  4. Hit “Submit.”
  5. Find the link labeled, “Drinking Water Certified Lead Labs.” It should be the 5<sup>th</sup> link from the top. Click on the link and browse the list of certified laboratories. The names, addresses, and contact information for each laboratory will be available on the page.
5. How do I tell what’s in my house?
- a) The diagram provided in the letter illustrated what portion of the service belongs to Park Ridge, and what portion of the service belongs to you. You own the part of the water line after the curb stop. A copy of the diagram is in ‘FAQ 6’ below.
  - b) This letter concerns your service line, which stops at the water meter. You may also have lead premise plumbing in your home, which is not covered by Park Ridge’s investigations, especially if you have an older home. You can check yourself, hire a licensed plumber, or speak with your landlord.
  - c) You can find information on identifying a lead service line at the:  
NJDEP website: <https://dep.nj.gov/lead/identification> or  
EPA website: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/protect-your-tap-quick-check-lead-0>
6. What portion of the line do I own?
- a) The service line is partially owned by Park Ridge and partially owned by you, the property owner. The typical differentiation between municipal and customer ownership is the curb stop, which is the main shutoff valve located near the curb or sidewalk. The customer responsibility is from the curb stop to water meter located inside of the residence.



7. I know what's coming into my house, how can I provide this information to Park Ridge Water?
  - a) We are working to post an online survey on our website in the next few weeks or you can leave a message with the information at 201-822-3166.
8. The service line coming into my house doesn't appear to be lead or galvanized steel, does that mean I don't have a lead service line?
  - a) Unfortunately, no. Additional investigation will be needed to verify the remainder of your service line. The publicly owned portion of the service line may not be known at this time. It is also possible that a lead line connects the service line coming into your home to the publicly owned service line, as shown in this diagram.



9. Who is paying for all this?
  - a) Park Ridge Water plans to perform physical investigations to determine service line materials and will be paying for this investigation effort. Should the municipal side of the service be found to be lead or galvanized, the cost to replace this portion of the line will be paid for by Park Ridge Water. Should the customer side of the service line be found to be lead or galvanized, the cost to replace this portion of the line would be the customer's responsibility.
10. When will Park Ridge Water be performing this work?
  - a) Park Ridge Water will be performing work throughout Park Ridge and Woodcliff Lake over the next several years. All lead service lines need to be replaced by 2031.

11. How much would replacing my side of the service line cost?
  - a) This will vary greatly, depending on if you choose to hire a plumber to perform this work independently or await the coordinated replacement efforts with Park Ridge Water.
  
12. I want to replace my side of the service line as soon as possible. Do I need to notify Park Ridge Water?
  - a) Yes. Prior to having a licensed plumber performing the work, Park Ridge Water should be notified directly.
  
13. I have an in-house filter, is that treating for lead?
  - a) You'll need to contact the manufacturer of your in-home filter for information regarding its efficacy in removing lead. You can visit [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org) for information on performance standards for water filters.
  
14. My in-home filter does remove lead, do I still need to have my lead service line replaced?
  - a) Yes. Regardless of whether or not you have an in-house filter that removes lead from the drinking water, your service line will need to be replaced.
  
15. What else can I do minimize exposure to lead, if I have a lead service line?
  - a) You can flush your line to reduce lead concentrations. Let the water run from the tap before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in the faucet has gone unused for more than 6 hours. You can purchase a water filter that is approved to reduce lead. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org).
  
16. I have a question that isn't on the FAQ, how do I request additional information?
  - a) As noted on the letter you received, you can call the following number (201-822-3166) and leave a message that will be returned as soon as possible. Please note that Park Ridge Water is doing their best to respond to all messages but is receiving a high volume of messages and will do our best to call you back. It may take a few days for you to receive a call back.