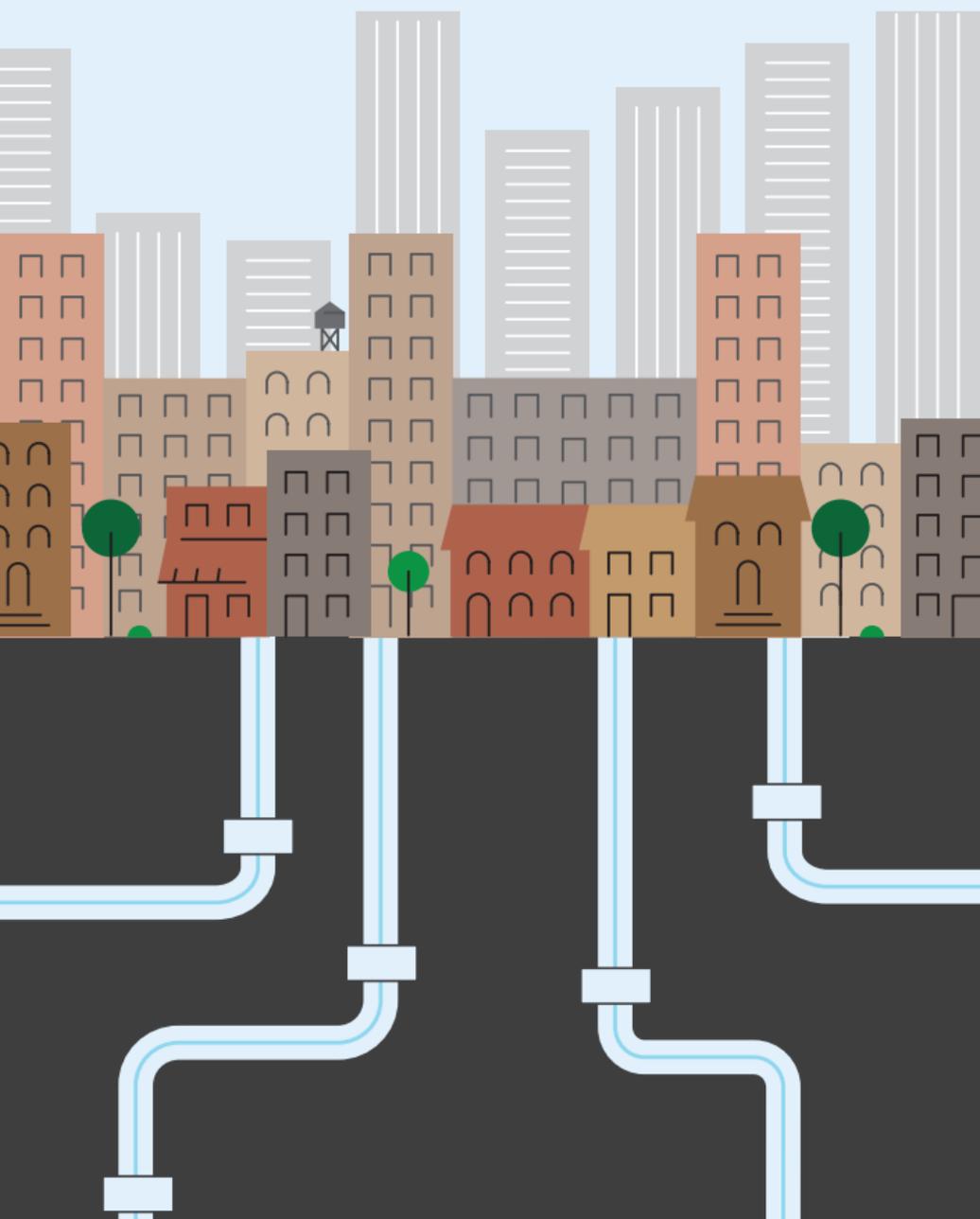


# Lead-Free NYC

## Get the Facts on Tap Water



[nyc.gov/leadfree](http://nyc.gov/leadfree)



# 600,000

number of drinking water quality tests performed each year

# 7,000

total miles of lead-free aqueducts, tunnels, and water mains in the City's water supply system

# 1961

the year lead water service lines were banned in NYC

# 121,000

number of free lead test kits distributed to New Yorkers since 1992

# 9.6M

number of people served by NYC's drinking water system



## Did you know?

NYC's award-winning tap water is delivered virtually lead-free, and New York City has invested more than \$10 billion to upgrade its water supply system to ensure New Yorkers receive the safest and highest quality drinking water, which meets or exceeds federal and state health standards.

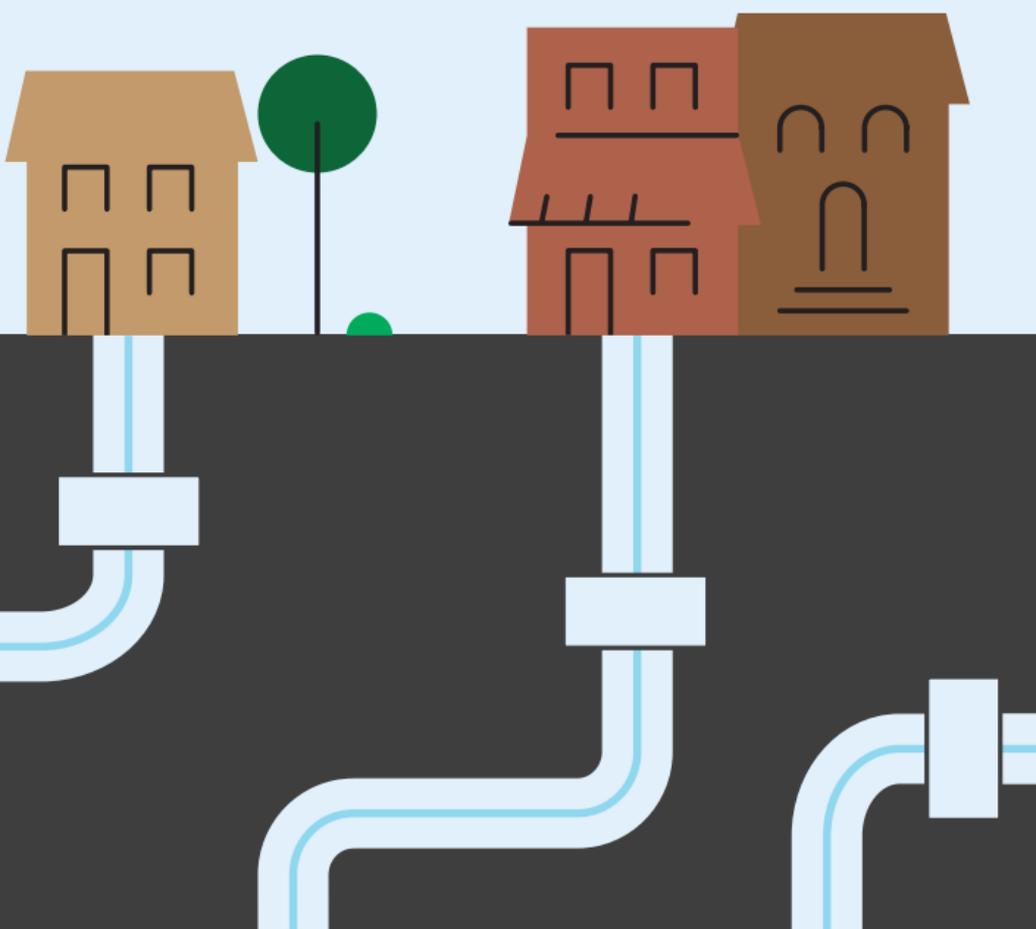
## Frequently Asked Questions

### Is there lead in NYC's drinking water?

NYC gets its drinking water from 19 reservoirs spread across a 2,000 square-mile watershed in upstate New York. It is delivered to NYC virtually lead-free.

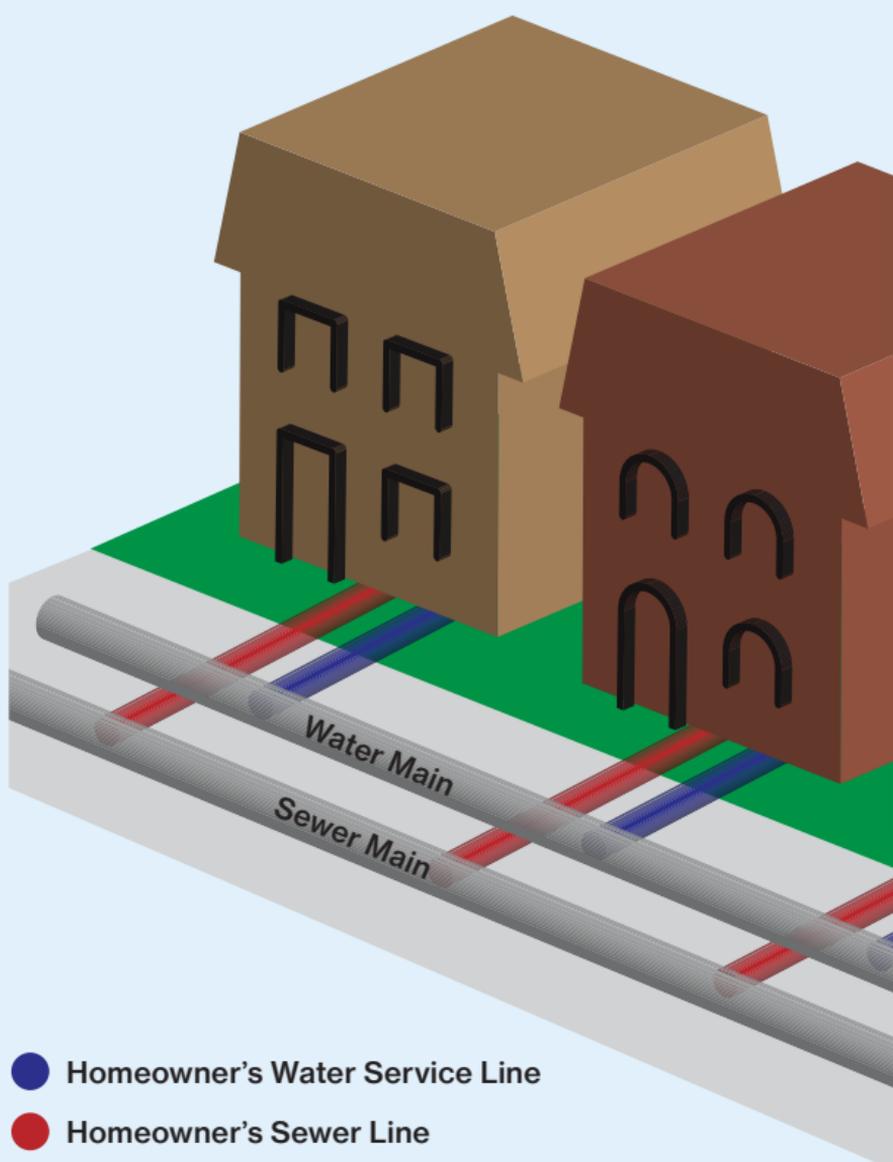
### Can lead get into my tap water?

Homes built prior to 1961 may have lead water service lines (the pipe that connects your house to the City's water main). Additionally, household plumbing, and internal fixtures within any home, regardless of the year built, may contain lead. The City has taken extensive steps to protect the water in homes that may have lead in their plumbing, including monitoring and adding food-grade phosphoric acid and sodium hydroxide. Phosphoric acid creates a protective film on pipes that reduces the release of metals, such as lead, from service lines and household plumbing. Sodium hydroxide is added to raise water's pH level and reduce corrosion of household plumbing.



## How do I find out if my service line contains lead?

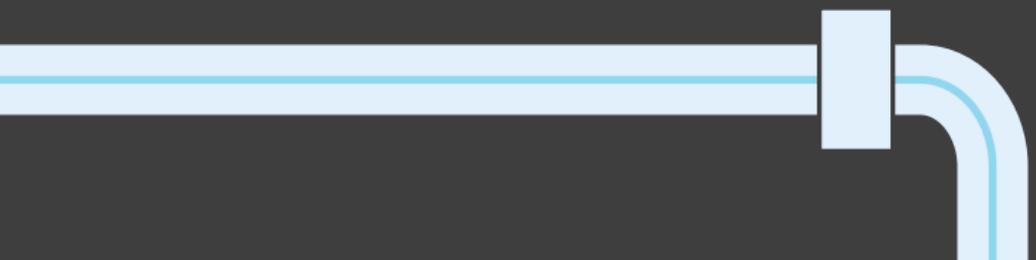
Visit [nyc.gov/leadfree](https://nyc.gov/leadfree) to view the City's service line map. This map offers historical information largely based on 3rd party plumbing records, supplemented, in some cases by information gathered during City inspections.



- Homeowner's Water Service Line
- Homeowner's Sewer Line
- DEP Water and Sewer Mains

## How do I get my water tested for lead?

Call 311 or visit [nyc.gov/dep](https://nyc.gov/dep) to request a free lead test kit for your home or apartment. The kit comes with simple, easy to follow instructions.



## How can I limit my lead exposure?

If you have a service line or plumbing fixtures that contain lead, or you don't know what material type they're made of, you can follow these tips to minimize your lead exposure:



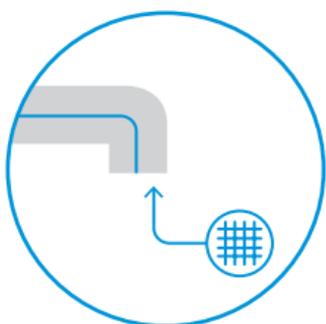
### Run

your water for at least 30 seconds or until it gets cold. Once the water is cold, run it for 15 seconds more.



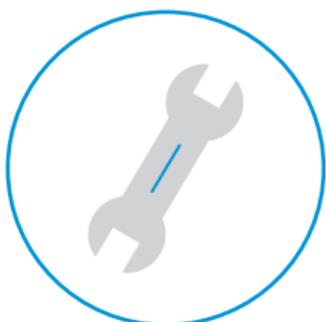
### Use Cold Water

for cooking, drinking, or preparing infant formula. Hot tap water is more likely to contain lead and other metals.



### Remove & Clean

the faucet screen monthly (also called an aerator), where small particles can get trapped.



### Hire

a licensed plumber to identify and replace plumbing fixtures and/or service line that contain lead.

## What are the health impacts of lead?

Lead in drinking water can be harmful, especially to young children and pregnant women. NYC's water is healthy and safe to drink. It is delivered virtually lead-free from our upstate reservoir system, but the possible presence of lead in your water service line or interior plumbing may pose a risk. Not every home will have the same risk because each building's plumbing may be different in material and age. Call 311 for more information about the health impacts of lead.

# Who Can I Contact?

## For health-related questions:

Call NYC Health Department

Healthy Homes at 311

Visit [www.nyc.gov/health](http://www.nyc.gov/health)

Healthy Homes, Lead Poisoning Prevention

Contact your health care provider, if you need a blood test for you or your child

## For questions about lead in drinking water:

Call DEP Lead Unit at (718) 595-5364 or

Email [DEPLoadUnit@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:DEPLoadUnit@dep.nyc.gov)

Visit [www.nyc.gov/dep/leadindrinkingwater](http://www.nyc.gov/dep/leadindrinkingwater)

## For questions about home water filtration:

Visit [www.nsf.org/info/leadinfiltrationguide](http://www.nsf.org/info/leadinfiltrationguide)

## Need help in another language?

Para una copia en español,  
visite [nyc.gov/leadpipes](http://nyc.gov/leadpipes)

বাংলা কপি জেনো, অনুগ্রহ করে [nyc.gov/leadpipes](http://nyc.gov/leadpipes) ওয়েব সাইটে যোগাযোগ করুন

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February 2019