



Proposed Lead and Copper Rule Improvements

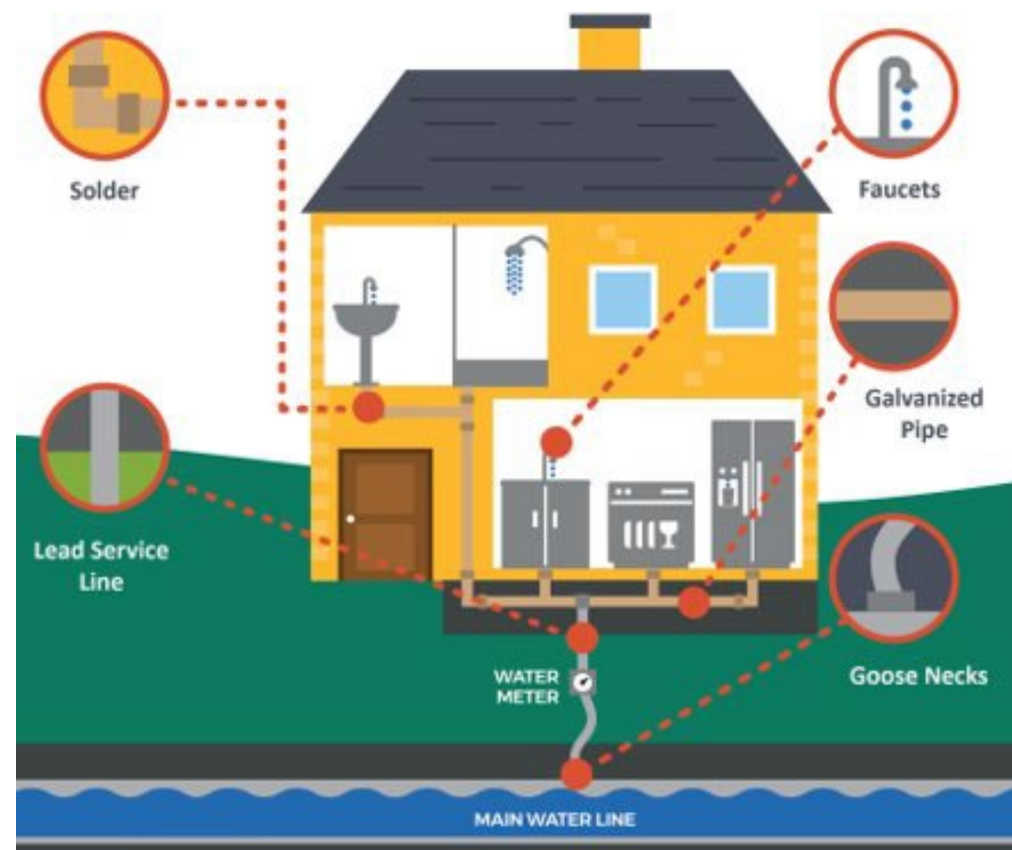


January 16, 2024



Lead in drinking water

- Lead in pipes, solder, and faucets can dissolve in water or break off as particles.
- When present, lead service lines are the most significant source of lead in drinking water.
- In children, exposure to lead can cause serious health effects like lower IQ, learning and behavioral problems.
- In adults, health effects can include higher risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, and kidney or nervous system problems.



Key Provisions in the Proposed LCRI

- Achieving 100% Lead Pipe Replacement within 10 years
- Locating Legacy Lead Pipes
- Improving Tap Sampling
- Lowering the Lead Action Level
- Strengthening Protections to Reduce Exposure



Achieving 100% Lead Pipe Replacement within 10 years

- The proposed LCRI would require all water systems to replace lead services lines under their control, with the vast majority completing replacement within 10 years.
- While corrosion control can be effective at reducing lead exposure, removing lead pipes provides even greater public health protection by eliminating the key source of lead.
- Water systems would be required to replace all lead pipes regardless of whether they exceed the lead action level.



Locating Legacy Lead Pipes

- Knowing where lead pipes are is critical to replacing them efficiently and equitably.
- Water systems are currently required, under the 2021 LCRR, to provide an initial inventory of their lead service lines by October 16, 2024.
- Under the proposed LCRI, all water systems would be required to regularly update their inventories, validate inventories, create a service line replacement plan, and identify the materials of all service lines of unknown material.

Improving Tap Sampling and Lowering the Lead Action Level

- Water systems would be required to collect first liter and fifth liter samples at sites with lead service lines and use the higher of the two values calculating the system's 90th percentile lead level.
- EPA is proposing to lower the lead action level from 15 µg/L to 10 µg/L and eliminate the trigger level to reduce complexity.
- When a water system's lead sampling exceeds the action level, the system would be required to inform the public and take action to reduce lead exposure.
 - For example, the system would be required to install or adjust corrosion control treatment to reduce lead that leaches into drinking water.

Strengthening Protections to Reduce Exposure and Improving Transparency and Trust

- Water systems with multiple lead action level exceedances would be required to conduct additional outreach to consumers and make filters available to all consumers. The filters must be certified to reduce lead.
- The proposed rule would require water systems to communicate more frequently and proactively about lead service lines and the system's plans for replacing these lines.
- The proposed rule would revise the Consumer Confidence Report language to increase clarity about the health effects of lead, the water system's efforts to sample for lead in schools and child care facilities, and how consumers can access the water system's lead service line replacement plan.
- Systems would be required to notify the public within 24 hours if systemwide lead levels exceed the proposed lower action level, and EPA would continue to require systems to collect follow-up samples at sites with higher levels of lead.

Available Funding Sources

- The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) provides for significant investments in safe drinking water infrastructure and drinking water programs.
- EPA is working to ensure the funds are available to drinking water systems, especially those within disadvantaged communities.
- Specific funds to potentially support implementation of the LCRI drinking water regulation:
 - \$11.7 billion: Funding to supplement the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF)
 - \$15 billion: Funding for lead service line replacement projects and associated activities directly connected to the identification of and planning for the replacement of lead service lines.
- The WIIN Voluntary School and Child Care Lead Testing and Reduction Grant Program provides funding to States for lead testing and remediation in schools and child care facilities. This funding is for States, not water systems.

Public Comment Period and Docket

- The proposed LCRI was published in the Federal Register on December 6, 2023.
- EPA invites the public to review the proposed LCRI and supporting information and provide written input to EPA through the public docket.
- The public docket can be accessed at <http://www.regulations.gov> under Docket ID No. **EPA-HQ-OW-2022-0801**.
- Written comments must be received on or before February 5, 2024.
- For more information and instructions on how to submit input to the public docket, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/dockets/commenting-epa-dockets>.



EPA's LCRI Website:

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/lead-and-copper-rule-improvements>

