



Lead Water Service Project Questions & Answers

Why is the Village doing this project?

The goal of this project will be to remove all the lead service lines in the Village and update the water service lines to a modern copper material. This project will be dealing with lead service lines only. Copper, steel or plastic service lines will not be affected/replaced. When the long-term project is completed the Village will be 100% lead free.

What is a "Service Line"?

A water service line is the ¾" diameter pipe that brings water into your house from the larger water main pipe under your street to your home.

How will this project be funded?

The Village of Itasca applied for a combination of state and federal funding to remove the lead service lines in the Village and replace them with copper service lines. This is the first time, to our knowledge, that the federal government has allowed public funds to be spent on private property. It appears this project will be funded for the first year, but there is no guarantee that it will be funded the following year. We will keep applying for the funds until all of the lead service lines are replaced.

Will this cost me anything?

It will not cost the homeowner anything. The homeowner will be receiving a \$8,000 - \$10,000 improvement at no cost to them. A new service line will increase the property value and will also reduce the risk of lead contamination. This is truly a "win/win" for all the parties involved.

Will I be mandated to agree to this?

No, this is COMPLETELY VOLUNTARY, but participation is strongly encouraged. Please keep in mind that if, in the future, the US Environmental Protection Agency or Illinois Environmental Protection Agency mandate that all lead service lines are to be removed and there is no available funding for private property work, the homeowner may have to pay for it. This is a great opportunity to offer this replacement to residents at no cost now as part of this funded project.

How do I sign up for this improvement at my home?

We will be contacting you if we think your property has a lead service line. Because a portion of the service line is privately owned by the homeowner, we don't know for sure where all the lead service lines are in the Village. We encourage you to check whether the service line inside your home is lead, and contact us if you think you have a lead service line. Details below will help you identify your service line material.

What should I expect for the replacement of my service line?

Before the construction, you will need to sign the access agreement to allow the work to happen within your property. Once the Agreement is signed, the licensed, insured and bonded Contractor, awarded the contract through a formal bidding process to do the work, will schedule a site visit at your home. This visit to discuss the work to be done at your home and associated restoration required will take approximately 15 minutes. Prior to this meeting, we ask that you remove any movable objects and clutter near the location of your water meter. The date of your service line replacement will be scheduled at or soon after this initial meeting.



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When will the work take place?

At this time, we anticipate the work to take place from the summer/fall of 2021 to the fall of 2023, depending on the amount for federal funding availability and where you live within the Village.

How long is it going to take to change my service line?

Contractors should be in your house for approximately 3 to 6 hours. More than likely it will be less than 4 hours. Your water service will be shut off during the period of time that the work is being done. We ask that someone is home during this time to allow the Contractor into the house and to answer any questions during construction.

Who will be present?

The Contractor (2 to 3 employees, including a licensed plumber) and a construction inspector, hired by the Village, and a Village representative.

What will be done?

The water main in the street and the valve in your yard will be dug up. The excavation at your valve will be approximately 5'x5' wide and 6' deep. The excavation at the water main will be approximately 5'x7' wide and 7' deep.

Any outdoor disturbance of sod, landscaping, pavement, etc. will be restored as nearly as practicable to original conditions.

Depending on the house layout, one of three methods will be used to install the new water pipe:

- 1) Cut the old pipe inside the house, attach the new pipe to the cut end, and pull the existing service line out from the street, while pulling the new service in behind the existing service in the existing cavity.
- 2) Use a machine outside the house to drill the service into your house and abandon the existing service in place.
- 3) Use a small machine inside your house to drill from the basement out to the water main.

Once the service line is installed under the ground, a plumber will connect the new copper service to the water meter inside your home and new shut off valves will be installed.

All visible lead pipe within the home will be removed regardless of the method used.

Any holes will be patched in your wall or floor and any normal domestic construction such as drywall, carpet, wood panels, etc. will be restored as nearly as practicable to the original condition.

What happens after the work is performed?

You will receive instructions as to how to flush the water pipes in your home to remove any residual lead particles.

You will be provided a water filter pitcher to use for drinking water for three months after the work is performed.



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How will I know that the contractor is the Village's contractor?

Please don't let anyone into your home to inspect your service line until the Village notifies you to let you know who the contractor will be, the name of the contact person and the approximate date you should be expecting a call to schedule the preconstruction meeting and the construction.

Who do I call if I have questions or concerns?

Of course, you can always contact the Itasca Public Works at 630-773-2455 with any questions.

Pipe Identification Procedures

How To Identify A Lead Water Service Pipe

Tools Needed:

Flathead Screwdriver, Refrigerator Magnet & A Penny (or other coin)

Step 1:

Locate the water service line coming into the building.

This is typically found in the basement. An "inlet valve" and the water meter are installed on the pipe after the point of entry.

Identify a test area on the pipe between the point where it comes into the building and the inlet valve. If the pipe is covered or wrapped, expose a small area of metal.



Step 2:

Scratch the surface of the pipe.

Use the flat edge of a screwdriver or other tool to scratch through any corrosion that may have built up on the outside of the pipe.

Step 3:

Compare your pipe to the chart below.

Each type of pipe will produce a different type of scratch, react to the magnet differently and produce a unique sound when tapped with a metal coin.



Lead Pipes

The Scratch Test

If the scraped area is shiny and silver, your service line is lead.

The Magnet Test

A magnet will not stick to a lead pipe.

The Tapping Test

Tapping a lead pipe with a coin will produce a dull noise.



Copper Pipes

The Scratch Test

If the scraped area is copper in color, like a penny, your service line is copper.

The Magnet Test

A magnet will not stick to a copper pipe.

The Tapping Test

Tapping a copper pipe with a coin will produce a metallic ringing noise.



Galvanized Pipes

The Scratch Test

If the scraped area remains a dull gray, your service line is galvanized steel.

The Magnet Test

A magnet sticks to a galvanized pipe.

The Tapping Test

Tapping a galvanized pipe with a coin will produce a metallic ringing noise.