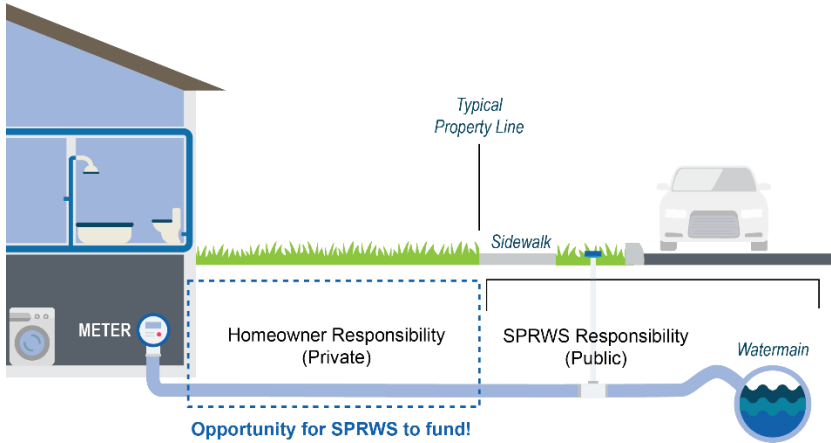
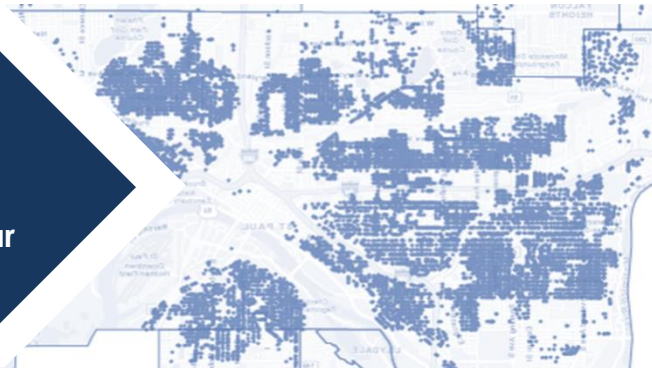




Lead Free SPRWS

Answers to frequently asked questions about the 10-year lead service line replacement program

LAST UPDATED: APRIL 7, 2022



WHAT IS A WATER SERVICE LINE AND WHO OWNS IT?

Water service lines are the pipes that carry water from the water mains in the street into homes/buildings. SPRWS owns the portion of the water service lines from the main in the street to the property line (public side). Individual property owners own the portion from the property line to the meter inside the home (private side).

HOW MANY SPRWS CUSTOMERS HAVE LEAD?

SPRWS has approximately 96,000 accounts. Of those accounts (properties), about 28% or 26,000 properties have a lead service line.

HOW DO I FIND OUT IF I HAVE A LEAD SERVICE LINE?

Confirm whether you have a lead service line by looking up your address on our [service material map](#) or by calling us at [651-266-6270](tel:651-266-6270).

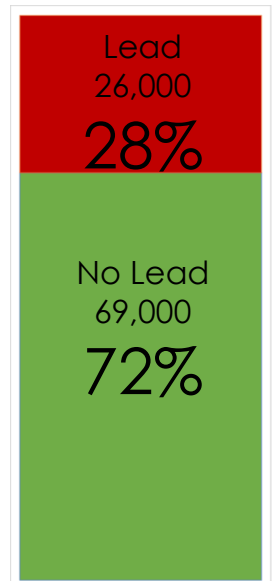
WHAT DOES IT MEAN IF MY LEAD SERVICE LINE SHOWS AS “UNKNOWN”?

Our records for your address do not show material type for the private side of your water service line. As part of this project, we will work to resolve all “unknowns” and ensure those with lead can take part. To have one of our meter technicians determine your service line material call our Meter Operations team at [651-266-6850](tel:651-266-6850) and schedule an appointment.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HAVE A LEAD SERVICE LINE?

SPRWS is committed to providing customers with safe, great tasting drinking water. Water leaves the treatment facility free of lead and travels through water mains that are not made of lead. Although the water is treated to minimize corrosion, it may occur when the water gets to an individual lead service line. Lead can potentially get into drinking water from the service line between the street and your home and from the plumbing inside your home. SPRWS regularly tests drinking water lead levels in accordance with all federal and state drinking water standards. There are additional measures you can take to minimize the effects of lead if you have a lead service line. These include the following:

- Don't drink or cook with water that has collected in plumbing for more than six hours
- Clear water lines by running cold water for 3-5 minutes
- Run the water before you drink from any faucet in the house
- Use cold water for cooking, drinking, making baby formula
- Clean faucet aerators at least once per month
- Treat your water using a pitcher or filtration system that is [NSF certified for lead](#)



CAN I TEST MY WATER FOR LEAD?

Yes! SPRWS offers free testing to all customers that have a lead service line. Lead testing kits are available at the customer service desk at 1900 Rice St., Saint Paul MN, 55113; Monday - Friday from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm. For more information contact customer service at [651-266-6350](tel:651-266-6350).

HOW WILL THE LEAD FREE SPRWS PROGRAM HELP?

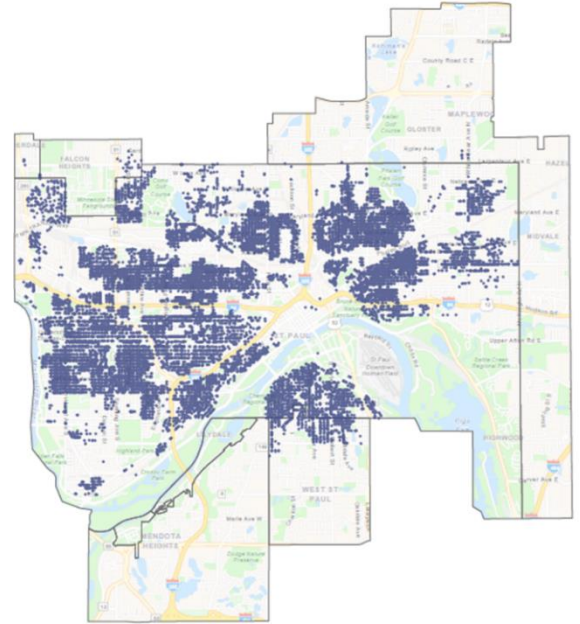
SPRWS is implementing a lead service line replacement program with the goal of removing all public lead service lines over the next ten years. Customers in designated project areas will be offered the opportunity to have their private lead replaced as well. This will be offered at no cost to the customer and is voluntary. Customers are strongly encouraged to participate when work is being done in their area. We are anticipating and budgeting for 85% private side participation. Without this program, replacing the private side of a lead service line costs customers an average of \$6,000. The program is anticipated to have a duration of ten years (2023-2032) and remove up to 26,000 lead service lines for a total project cost of approximately \$250 million.

HOW WILL THIS WORK BE CONDUCTED?

This program is being designed with the intention of having about half of the work performed by SPRWS crews and half under city contracts. Initial estimates for project needs show the potential of about 20 new full-time employees (program administration and actual lead replacement work) to join team SPRWS. We are actively working with Ramsey County to explore job program opportunities to incorporate into this plan. More information and job postings will be shared when they are available

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN 2022 WITH LEAD?

As a lead up to full implementation of the 10-year lead service line replacement program, SPRWS will be offering to replace lead service lines in a few select pilot areas in 2022. The areas eligible for this pilot program are in pre-planned construction areas prior to the request and development of the 10-Year plan. Customers in these areas will be contacted directly and will have the opportunity to receive a lead service line replacement at no cost to them. To find out if your property is part of a 2022 project, please check out the [SPRWS Water Construction Projects Map](#).



HOW IS THE LEAD FREE SPRWS PROGRAM BEING FUNDED? WILL IT IMPACT WATER RATES?

The public portion of these replacements will be funded through SPRWS' capital budget as they have been historically. An estimated 6% total rate impact will be necessary over the next ten years to cover the associated public side expenses. There are currently no immediate plans to increase water rates for this project, though incremental rate increases may be considered as we develop strategies for fully funding the 10-year program. SPRWS is actively applying for public funding to assist customers in covering the cost to replace the portion of the lead service line owned by the property-owner. We are excited to share that the City of Saint Paul has committed \$14.5M of American Rescue Plan funds to support this project. We also expect to receive significant funding through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act which has allocated \$215M to the State of Minnesota to be dispersed over the next 5 years.

Even with assumptions around funding sources listed above, there remains an approximate **\$100 Million deficit** to fully remove private lead service lines in our service area. We will continue to work to obtain additional funding to address this deficit.

WHEN WILL MY LEAD SERVICE LINE BE REPLACED?

The SPRWS service area will be divided into project zones, each with a similar number of lead service lines. We are actively working to plan out the next ten years which includes obtaining funding and then selecting an appropriate number of project areas to complete each year based on available funding. Project areas will be prioritized based on several factors yet to be determined. We will share this information on our website as soon as it is available, and customers will be contacted directly when we are coming to their area.

For more information contact:

Saint Paul Regional Water Services

651-266-6350

water-lead-replacements@stpaul.gov

**Or visit our website to sign up
for program updates:**

<https://www.stpaul.gov/water>

WHAT IF I DON'T WANT TO WAIT? AM I ABLE TO REPLACE MY LEAD SERVICE LINE NOW?

Yes, customers can replace the portion of the lead service line that they own at any point. However, at this time, SPRWS funding and crews will only be available for projects within the determined project areas. Customers may work with outside contractors to complete their private side work at their own expense. SPRWS does not currently have funding available to help offset the cost of these private side replacements outside of project areas but we are exploring options for providing partial funding assistance that may be available in the future. We understand that customers want their lead removed but in order to most effectively use the funds available for this work, we need to complete the work in coordinated projects. If a customer decides to replace the private side of a lead service line and the public side is also lead, SPRWS will ensure the public lead is also replaced at no cost to the customer.

I HAD MY LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACED IN THE PAST. AM I ELIGIBLE FOR REIMBURSEMENT NOW?

Unfortunately, funding is only available for upcoming project areas and we are not able to retroactively reimburse property owners for previous work. The grant funding is only available for work that is completed after March 2022.