



2023 Lead Compliance Results

EPA's Lead and Copper Rule



What is Lead and Why is it a Concern?

1

Lead is a common metal found in air, soil, household dust, and water.

2

It is also found in consumer products, some types of food, pottery, pewter and lead-based paint.

3

If breathed in or swallowed, lead can build up in the body.

4

If too much lead gets into the body, it can hurt the brain, nervous system, red blood cells, and kidneys.

Children, infants, and pregnant women are at greater risk.

How Does Lead Get into Water?

Water leaving the SPRWS treatment plant does **NOT** contain lead.

Neither does the 1,200 miles of water main that take the water out into our system.

Lead exists in some service lines that feed water from the main into homes and in some internal plumbing. Lead can leach into water from these sources.



Corrosion Control

To reduce potential leaching, SPRWS treats the water by monitoring and adjusting pH and alkalinity levels.

This process, called **CORROSION CONTROL**, creates a protective scale on the inside of the pipe between the water and the lead service line.

Additional corrosion control methods are being installed and will go into effect in January 2024 to further minimize leaching.



How Were Samples Selected?

REPRESENTATIVE
Samples were taken from across our service area.

NUMBER OF SAMPLES

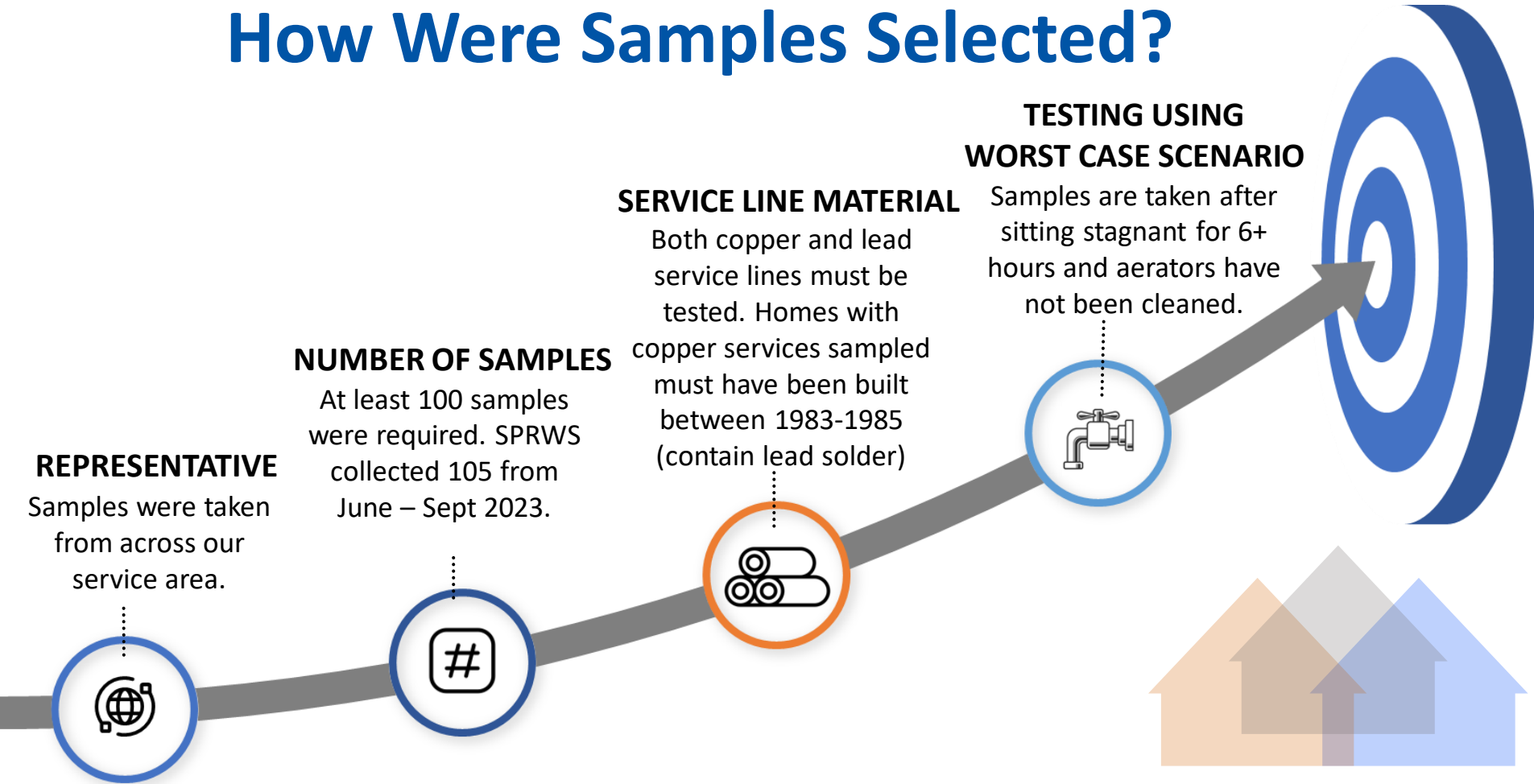
At least 100 samples were required. SPRWS collected 105 from June – Sept 2023.

SERVICE LINE MATERIAL

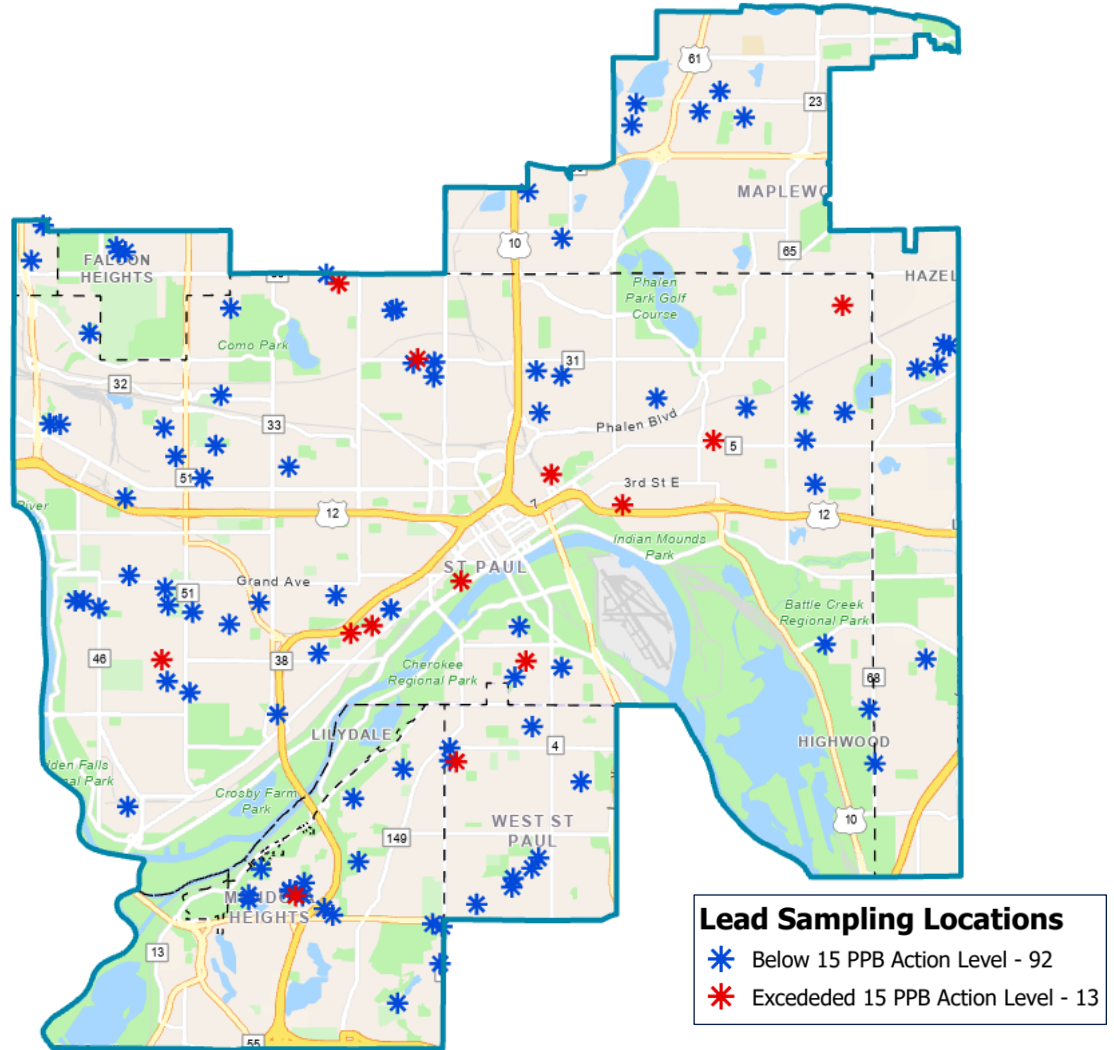
Both copper and lead service lines must be tested. Homes with copper services sampled must have been built between 1983-1985 (contain lead solder)

TESTING USING WORST CASE SCENARIO

Samples are taken after sitting stagnant for 6+ hours and aerators have not been cleaned.



2023 Lead Sampling Locations



What is the EPA Action Level for Lead?

15 ppb

- The EPA action level for lead is 15 parts per billion (ppb).

90%

- At least 90% of samples must test at or under 15 ppb.

17 ppb

- 90% of 2023 SPRWS samples came back at or below 17 ppb.

87.3%

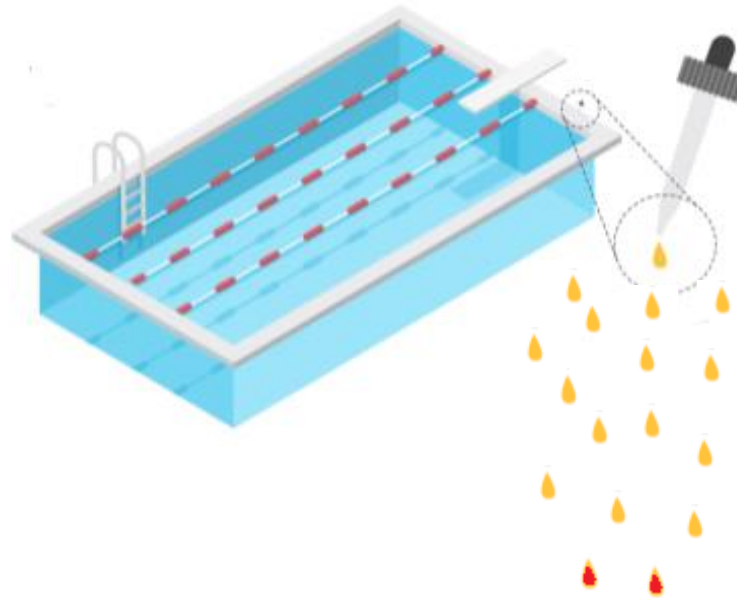
- 87.6% of 2023 SPRWS samples were below the 15 ppb threshold.

What is a Part Per Billion (ppb)?

1 ppb = 1 drop in an Olympic Sized Swimming Pool

Action Level: 15 ppb

2023 Results: 17 ppb





Elevated Lead - Results Above 15 ppb

Homes with Lead Service Lines

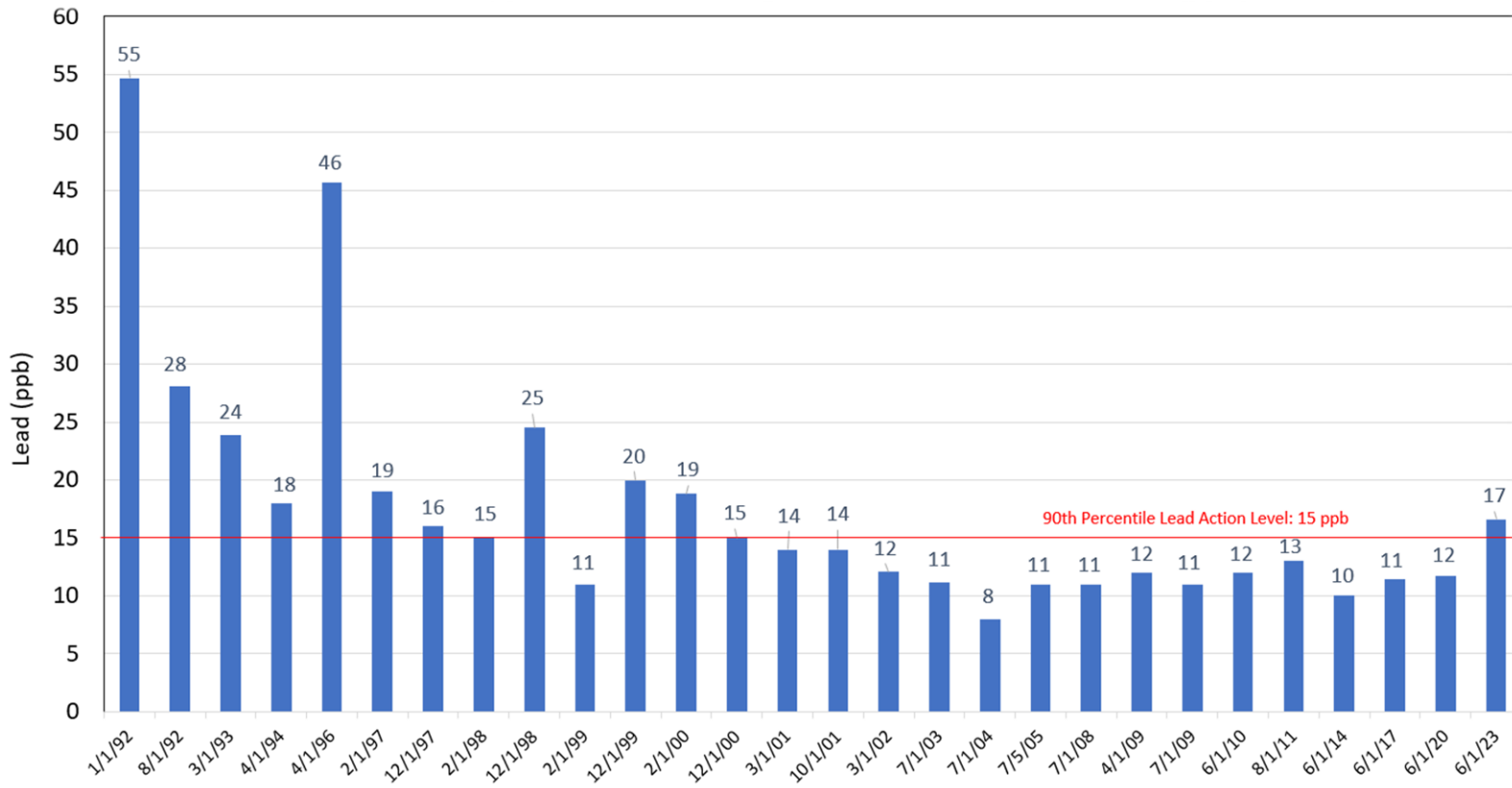
12 out of 51 homes were greater than 15 ppb of lead.

Homes with Copper Service Lines but Potential for Lead Solder (1983-1985)

1 out of 54 homes were greater than 15 ppb of lead.



History of Lead Testing Results



Who Has a Lead Service Line?

Lead water services were primarily installed in homes built before 1926 and in some homes built between 1927 and 1948.

About 26,000 of the 96,000 service lines in our area are composed of some lead.



Check our interactive map to see what records indicate now for your property.
www.stpaul.gov/water/lead

What if My Address Shows as UNKNOWN Service Line Material?

An “unknown” indication means our records do not give clear guidance as to the material of your service line.

Please contact our Meter Operations Team at **651-266-6850** to schedule an onsite visit to investigate and determine material type.



WHAT CAN CUSTOMERS DO AT HOME TO REDUCE EXPOSURE?



Flush Water

The more time water has been sitting in your home's pipes, the more lead it may contain. If you have a lead service line, let the water run for 3 - 5 minutes if the water has not been used for greater than 6 hours. If you do not have lead service line, let the water run for 30-60 seconds.



Clean Your Aerator


At least once a quarter, remove your aerator from your drinking water faucet and rinse out the filter to remove any small particles.

How Can I Get My Water Tested?

Testing Kits

Free lead testing kits are available for customers at the customer service desk at SPRWS.

Location:
1900 Rice Street



Results


Results may take 4 to 6 weeks.

Customers will receive results by mail but direct contact will be made with those that test above 15 ppb.

Other Options

If you live outside our service area, a private laboratory can test your household water.

Contact the Minnesota Department of Health for a list of certified laboratories.



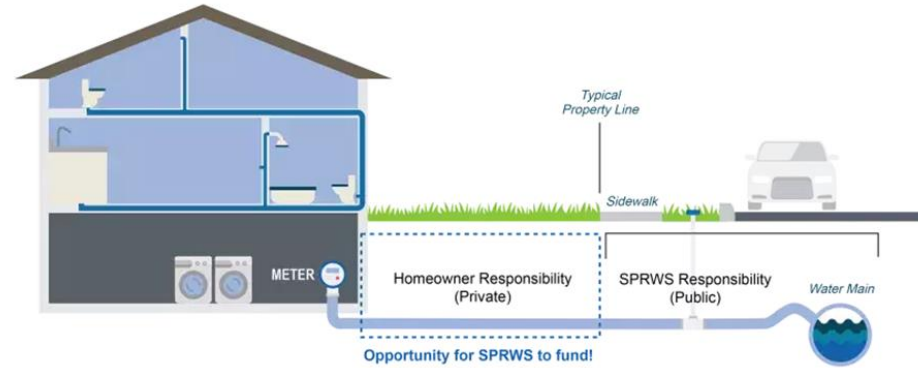
Authorized by the Board of Water Commissioners in **March of 2022**

10-year program to remove lead water service lines within the SPRWS distribution system

Replacements are **voluntary and free** for the property owner.

GOAL: 85% Participation

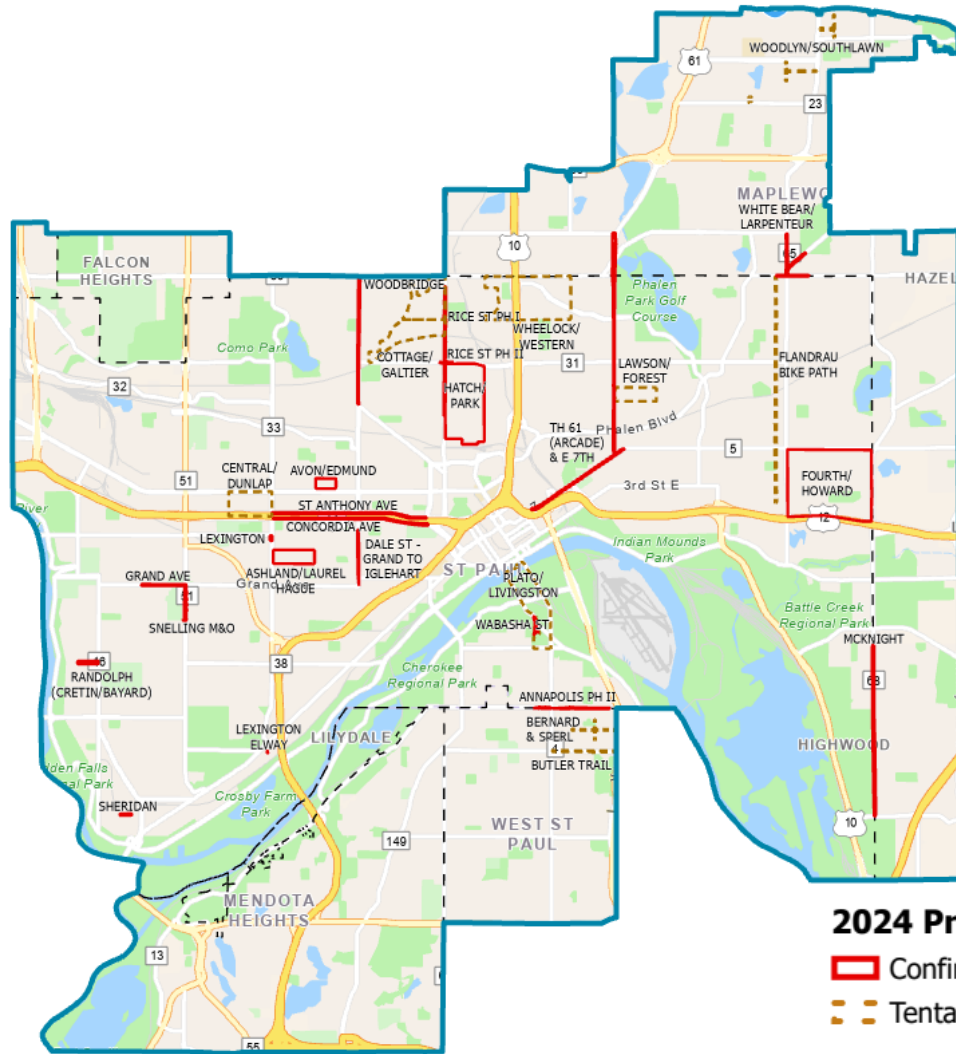
Replacements offered within project areas & prioritized zones



2024 Project Areas

Project areas are subject to change.

Customers will be contacted directly
when plans are confirmed.



2024 Projects

☐ Confirmed (21)

- ■ Tentative (10)



For More Information:

Call SPRWS at 651-266-6820

Email us at lead@stpaul.gov

Visit our website at www.stpaul.gov/water/lead