Saint Paul Regional Water Services has been providing drinking water to Saint Paul and our surrounding suburban communities for many years. We are proud of our history in providing reliable water and services to all of our customers at a reasonable cost.
We provide water and services to about 425,000 people 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There are over 94,000 individual locations that we serve. These are located in Saint Paul and 10 surrounding communities.
We have 253 employees that work together to ensure we have virtually uninterrupted water service every day of the year.
SPRWS receives the majority of our water from the Mississippi River from our intakes in Fridley, Minnesota.
The water is pumped from that location through large pipes to a chain of lakes in northern Ramsey County. The water flows through these lakes to our final intakes in Vadnais Lake.
From there, the water flows to our water treatment plant in Maplewood, Minnesota through large pipes. We also have 10 wells along these pipes where we can use ground water for source water if the need arises.
At McCarrons Treatment plant we treat the water to ensure it is of good quality and is safe to drink. To do this we first add chemicals to remove minerals and contaminants from the water, filter the water to remove even finer particles and finally, disinfect the water to ensure it contains no harmful bacteria or viruses.
Our certified laboratory conducts many tests to ensure that the water meets the standard for drinking water. Many of our parameters are monitored 24 hours a day. Our water meets all EPA standards for drinking water.
When the water leaves the treatment plant it is ready to be consumed from your tap. This high quality water does not contain lead at the point it is finished with treatment.
The water at your tap can be consumed with confidence.
How many of those here drink bottled or bulk water purchased from a store on a regular basis? Here are some reasons you may want to consider tap water.

- Tap water has stricter standards than does bottled water.
- Tap water is delivered directly to your home- no need to go out to get it.
- Tap water is far less expensive.
One dollar will purchase 291 gallons of high quality SPRWS tap water. Remember that tap water has more stringent standards that must be met versus bottled water.
All water is treated to drinking water standards at the McCarrons treatment plant. The water is then pumped and may be delivered to your street through a water tower or it may remain in our underground water pipes all the way there.
Once the water is near your home, it is delivered into the house through a water service connection. It is then metered and available for your use. The water service connection is owned partially by SPRWS and partially by the owner of the home.
Home water services

We provide water to about 90,000 homes in Saint Paul and several surrounding communities.

There are over 90,000 residential services in our system. Each of these provide drinking water to a private home.
These water service connections were constructed over the years with predominately copper, cast iron and lead materials. A recent review of our records indicate that as many as 28,000 homes may still have all or a portion of the service connection consisting of lead. This can either be the SPRWS owned portion or the property owner portion of the connection.
This equals about one out of every three of our service lines.
Lead can be harmful, especially to young children. It can:
- impact normal physical and mental development in babies and young children
- cause deficits in the attention span, hearing, and learning abilities of children
- increase blood pressure in adults

Lead can be harmful, especially to young children. It can affect the physical and mental development in growing children and increase blood pressure in adults.
Remember:

Lead is not present in the drinking water leaving the plant.

It is important to note that lead is not present in the drinking water leaving the water treatment plant.
Lead can, however, enter the drinking water through lead service lines, brass fittings and fixtures and lead solder that was commonly used in private plumbing systems.
Do you know when your home was built? Most homes in Saint Paul that were built in 1927 and earlier, had water service lines made of lead materials. To help limit the amount of corrosion that occurs in the system, SPRWS has very tight controls on the pH and alkalinity of the water we provide.
The proper pH and alkalinity help to create a coating on the inside of the lead water service lines, as seen below.

This allows us to produce a water that creates a thin coating on the inside of all the pipes in our system that limits the contact between the water and pipe materials.
It is our goal to limit the amount of lead that exists in your drinking water. It is important to know that there are other common sources of lead in our environment. These include old paint, dirt and household dust. According to the EPA, about 20 percent of lead exposure comes from water, and about 80 percent from those other sources.
What are we doing to address this issue?

First, we continue to replace lead water services in the street. Every year, we replace several hundred and have been doing so since the 1980’s. If a homeowner replaces the privately owned portion of their service, we will replace our half as well.

We are educating our customers about lead and lead in drinking water.

We offer financing for Saint Paul residents to facilitate the replacement of their lead service.
Any time there is work done that disturbs a lead water service anywhere from the water main to the water meter, we provide that homeowner with a filtering water pitcher that is certified to remove lead from the water. We also provide enough filters to last for approximately six months.
What can you do to limit your exposure?

First and foremost, find out if you have a lead water service. We can help you with this. However, we may not have records that detail what is in private property. In some cases you may need to have someone help you determine what material you have in private property.
If you have a copper service all the way into the home, your chances of having high levels of lead in your water are significantly reduced.

If you have a copper service, that’s great! Your chances of having an issue with high lead levels in your water are small!
If you have a lead water service, the best thing you can do is replace it. Again, we can help finance this and we will commit to replacing our portion if you replace yours first.
If you choose not to replace your service, running your water for 3-5 minutes if there has been no water use for several hours is very effective at reducing the amount of lead that may be in the water.
You can purchase and use a water filter pitcher certified by the NSF International for lead removal to remove lead from your water before drinking or cooking.
SPRWS offers a free water test if you are concerned about lead in your drinking water. We will communicate the results and help you interpret them.
What you can do

To summarize:

* If you have a copper service, you probably have little to worry about with lead in your water.
* If you have a lead service, replacing it is the best option.
* If you can’t replace it or don’t want to, use a filter pitcher and/or flush your system to reduce lead levels.

We are always available to help if you have questions.

We are always available to help if you have any questions. Our professional water quality, engineering and customer service staff will gladly review how we can work together to address this issue.
SPRWS has been aggressively addressing this issue for decades. We will continue to work with you to minimize your exposure to lead in your drinking water.
We continue to be in compliance with all EPA and Minnesota Department of Health regulations on drinking water.

We are in full compliance with all applicable regulations for drinking water.
Tap water is still the most:
• Economical
• Convenient
• Regulated
Source of drinking water
We take pride in producing high quality drinking water to our customers and continue to do everything we can to extend the trust our customers have placed in us and in their drinking water.
There is much more information available on-line about lead. You can refer to the pamphlet for more information.
Contact Information

Water quality lab
651-266-1635

Engineering desk
651-266-6270

Customer service
651-266-6350

Water quality lab
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Engineering desk
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Customer service
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