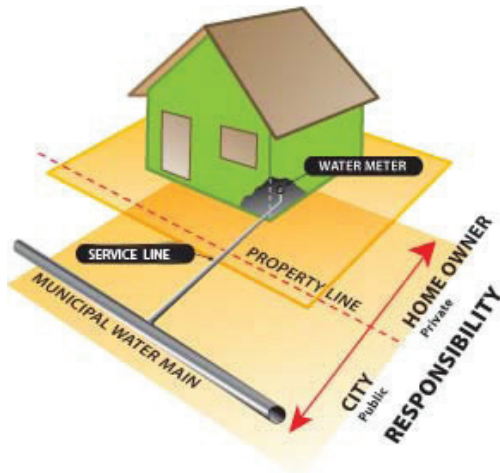
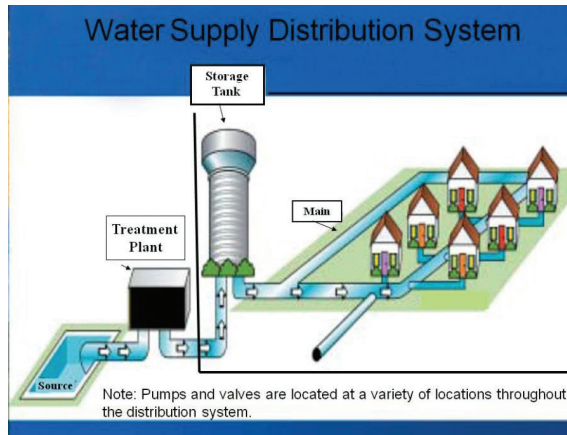


How Do I Get My Water?

Water is pumped from the plant in Maplewood through a series of pipes to pumping stations, reservoirs, and water towers from which it is further distributed through water mains to water service lines directly into homes and businesses.



You own the water service line from the property line into your home. We own the water service line from the property line into the street.

More Information

For more information on water quality or lead in drinking water go to these sources:

- For a copy of our annual water quality report, which contains information on the lead levels in our water, go to www.stpaul.gov/waterquality. For a hard copy, contact customer service at 651-266-6350
- For more information on lead in drinking water, read our brochure Keeping Lead Out. Go to www.stpaul.gov/water and scroll to publications on the right hand side. Select Keeping Lead Out. For a hard copy, call customer service at 651-266-6350
- For more extensive information on lead in general, go to the Minnesota Department of Health's website at www.health.state.mn.us/lead
- To get your water tested for lead, or if you have water quality concerns, contact our water quality lab at 651-266-1635
- To get more information on replacing your water service line, or determine if you have lead service lines, call our engineering service desk at 651-266-6270



1900 Rice Street
Saint Paul, MN 55113
651.266.6350

Saint Paul Regional Water Services



Information on water quality, delivery and lead in drinking water

Where Your Water Comes From

Saint Paul Regional Water Services provides clean, reliable water and services to 425,000 people in Saint Paul and the surrounding communities.

We take our water from the Mississippi River and a chain of lakes.

We have a backup well supply sufficient to provide our average daily water use of 40 million gallons, if we should ever need it.

To make the water suitable for drinking, we send this raw water to our treatment plant where we soften it, filter it, and disinfect it before distributing it to our customers through more than 1,200 miles of water main.

We provide you with high quality water transported directly to your home faucet for your consumption.

We perform thousands of tests on our water every month to ensure that we are providing you with clean, potable water.

SPRWS is in compliance with all local, state and national regulations pertaining to water quality.

Lead Service Lines

We estimate up to 28,000 homes in Saint Paul still have lead service lines on private property.

Homes built before 1927 have lead service lines along with some homes built between the years 1944 and 1947.

How Do I Know if I Have Lead?

You can call our engineering department at 651-266-6270 to determine if you have lead service lines in the street or in private property.

Records dating back to the 1800s show most private property service line construction, but not all. We are missing records on many private property service lines and cannot conclusively provide accurate data on those properties.

However, lead pipes are a dull gray in color and are soft enough to scratch easily with a house key. A licensed plumber can help you determine if your household plumbing is made of lead.

Why Does it Matter?

Lead from lead service lines can leach into drinking water. Water that has been sitting a long time could pick up trace amounts of lead from the service lines, especially if it has been sitting for more than six hours, like overnight.

SPRWS treats the water to reduce the amount of lead in drinking water by monitoring and adjusting the pH levels and the alkalinity of the water, reducing the leaching of lead into the water.

Even so, some lead can enter the water.

Lead can be harmful. It can impact normal physical and mental development in babies and young children, cause deficits in attention span, hearing, and learning abilities of children, and increase blood pressure in adults.

Where Else Does Lead Come From?

Lead can also be found in the solder in copper pipes installed prior to 1985, and in brass fixtures made before 2014.

The EPA estimates that 20 percent of lead exposure comes from water, while the remaining 80 percent of lead exposure comes from dirt, household dust, lead paint, pottery, and air.

What Are We Doing to Reduce Lead?

- We continuously monitor pH and alkalinity levels in the water coming from the plant, keeping it at a level that allows a coating to develop on the inside of your lead pipes. This coating reduces the exposure to lead in drinking water by keeping the lead from coming into contact with the water. We have been treating the water to reduce lead exposure since the 1990s.
- We are removing lead water service lines located from the property line to the street. We have been working to remove these lead service lines from our water system since the 1980s.
- We are providing financial assistance to Saint Paul residents by providing the means to put the removal of their lead water lines on to their property taxes.
- We are providing information to those that have had partial lead service line replacements on how to flush out their homes after the construction work is completed.
- We also provide those home owners with water pitchers certified to remove lead and filters to last six months.
- We are always interested to hear from you concerning water quality or other comments. These can be made by calling our customer service line at 651-266-6350 or by emailing waterinquiries@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

What Can I Do to Reduce Lead?

- Call SPRWS to find if you have lead service lines in the street to your home, or on private property to your home.
- If the service line is made of copper, your chances of being exposed to lead in water are greatly reduced.
- If your service line is made of lead, you can replace it with copper. If you live in Saint Paul, you can have the amount it will cost deferred to your property taxes to be paid over time rather than all at once.
- If you don't want to replace your lead service line or can't, you can run your cold water for 3 - 5 minutes before using it for drinking or cooking if the water has been sitting for more than six hours. Flushing toilets and taking showers can both help, but the last few minutes of running water should be from the faucet you're going to drink from.
- Use a filtered water pitcher that has been approved for lead removal and follow the directions that come with it.
- Have your water tested for lead. Our lab will test the water for free, send you the results, and help you interpret them.

