

## POTENTIAL LEAD EXPOSURE RISK NOTICE

Dear Valued Water Customer,

Hixson Utility District (HUD) is required to notify customers, non-paying consumers, and any off-site owner of a property (e.g., landlord) when a service line that may cause elevated lead exposure is identified. The most recent service line inventory indicates that this property has been identified as having a drinking water service line made of:

- Lead
- Galvanized metal that may have been downstream of lead containing materials
- Unknown material

## WHAT IS A SERVICE LINE?

A service line is a portion of pipe that connects the water main to the building inlet.

Ownership of the service line varies by water system, but the HUD service line is owned partially by the HUD (*main distribution line to the meter*) and partially by the property owner (*from the meter to the building*). This service line material has been identified in the HUD owned portion and in the property owner's portion.

HUD has developed a lead service line verification and replacement program. Information on this program is available at <https://hixsonutility.com/news/lead-and-copper-survey/> and in our annual Consumer Confidence Report available on our website at <https://hixsonutility.com/assets/CCR2024.pdf>. If you are planning to replace your service line, contact us at (423) 877-3513 prior to replacement so that we can coordinate our efforts. **If your location has been identified as "unknown material," please contact us to learn how to verify the service line materials.**

The most recent service line inventory map is available to the public at our website <https://www.hixsonutility.com> and upon request at the Hixson Utility District office located at 5201 Hixson Pike, Hixson, TN 37343.



## SOURCE OF LEAD EXPOSURE

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Lead is a common metal found in the environment.

Although most lead exposure occurs when people eat paint chips and inhale dust, or from contaminated soil, the EPA estimates that 10 to 20 percent of human exposure to lead may come from lead in drinking water. Lead is rarely found in source water but enters tap water through corrosion of plumbing materials. Homes built before 1988 are more likely to have lead pipes, fixtures, and solder. However, new homes are also at risk: even legally designated “Lead-Free” plumbing may contain up to 8 percent lead. The most common source is brass and chrome-plated brass faucets and fixtures, which can leach significant amount of lead into water, especially hot water.

## GALVANIZED IRON PIPES

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Galvanized iron pipes can serve as a source of lead exposure in two ways:

- 1 Galvanized service lines can capture lead released from upstream lead service lines, which can be released into the drinking water.** The release can vary in concentration and can happen over a long period of time, even after the lead piping is removed.

As a result, the EPA now requires galvanized service lines previously connected to lead (*also referred to as galvanized requiring replacement*) to be identified and removed. Galvanized plumbing inside homes or buildings that are downstream from lead sources, such as a lead service line, are also a source of potential lead exposure.

- 2 The zinc coating on galvanized pipes contains lead that can corrode and leach into drinking water.** Older galvanized pipes, manufactured before 2014, contain a higher percentage of lead; newer galvanized pipes must meet the new standards for “lead-free” as indicated above.

## HEALTH EFFECTS OF LEAD EXPOSURE

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Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups.

Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems.

# WAYS TO REDUCE EXPOSURE TO LEAD IN DRINKING WATER



## 1. RUN YOUR WATER TO FLUSH OUT LEAD

Flushing the tap means running the cold-water faucet. It usually uses less than one gallon of water. If the water has not been used for several hours, run water for 15-30 seconds, or until it becomes cold, or until it reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking. Flushing removes water that may contain lead from the plumbing lines.

## 2. USE COLD, FLUSHED WATER FOR COOKING AND PREPARING BABY FORMULA.

Because lead from lead-containing plumbing materials and pipes can dissolve into hot water more easily than cold water, never drink, cook, or prepare beverages including baby formula using hot water from the tap. If you have not had your water tested or if you know that lead-containing materials and pipes exist within your home, it is recommended that bottled or filtered water be used for drinking and preparing baby formula. If you need hot water, draw water from the cold tap and then heat it.



## 3. DO NOT BOIL WATER TO REMOVE LEAD.

Boiling water will not reduce lead; however, it is still safe to wash hands, dishes, shower, water plants, do laundry, etc.

## 4. LOOK FOR ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OR TREATMENT OF WATER IF YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT CONTAMINANTS.

You may want to consider purchasing a water filter or bottled water. Read the packaging to ensure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-2010 or [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org) for more information on performance standards for water filters.

## 5. GET YOUR CHILD TESTED VISIT THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Visit the Tennessee Department of Health to learn more about children and lead or contact your healthcare provider to find out how you could get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about lead exposure.

<https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/fhw/tn-clpp.html>



## 6. GET YOUR WATER TESTED

Get your water tested. The following is a list of some Department approved laboratories in your area that you can call to have your water tested for lead:

**AIRL, Inc.** (423) 476-7766

**Assured Bio Labs, LLC** (865) 813-1700

## 7. REPLACE PLUMBING OR FIXTURES CONTAINING LEAD

Although Tennessee law currently restricts the sale of plumbing fixtures not considered "Lead-Free," new brass faucets, fittings, and valves, even those advertised as "Lead-Free" may still contribute lead to drinking water. **Physical modifications or disturbances may cause lead release. If you are planning to replace your lead service line, contact us at (423) 877-3513.**



## 8. REMOVE AND CLEAN AERATORS/SCREENS ON PLUMBING FIXTURES

Over time, particles and sediment can collect in the aerator screen. Regularly remove and clean aerators screens located at the tip of faucets and remove any particles.



## 9. TEST YOUR WATER FOR LEAD

Testing is essential because you cannot see, taste, or smell lead in drinking water. HUD periodically tests a portion of the residences for lead and copper levels and other water quality parameters throughout the distribution system. Participation in the sampling program is voluntary and free, but has limited availability. **If you are interested in participating in this program, please call us (423) 877-3513.**

## 10. USE WATER SOFTENERS AND REVERSE OSMOSIS UNITS

Water softeners and reverse osmosis units will remove lead from water but can also make the water more corrosive to lead solder and plumbing by removing certain minerals; therefore, the installation of these treatment units at the point of entry into homes with lead plumbing should only be done under supervision of a qualified water treatment professional.

## PROVIDING SAFE, RELIABLE DRINKING WATER TO OUR CONSUMERS AND THE COMMUNITY IS OUR TOP PRIORITY

Providing safe, reliable drinking water to our consumers and the community is our top priority, and we are committed to reducing lead exposure in water. Should you require any additional information or assistance, please feel free to reach out to us.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead), call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791, contact your health care provider, or reach out to the State of Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation by mailing:

### **Lead and Copper in Drinking Water**

Davy Crockett Tower, 9th Floor  
500 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, TN 37243-1204

This notice is sent to you by Hixson Utility District  
State Water System ID Number: TN0000303

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