VILLAGE OF DEFOREST

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

DeForest Waterworks Failed To Accurately Fill Out An Initial Service Line Inventory

Our water system recently violated a drinking water requirement. As our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did (are doing) to correct this situation.

We were required to develop and make publicly available an initial inventory of service lines connected to our distribution system by October 16, 2024 Our system failed to adequately notify the state of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of "a basis of street side material classification" and "a basis of property side material classification", as well as incorrectly stated the number of service lines as required by October 16, 2024. The inventory must identify the service line materials as lead galvanized requiring replacement (GRR)[1], lead-status unknown/unknown, or non-lead. Identifying and ultimately removing lead and GRR service lines is an important way to protect public health.

We notified people served at service connections with a lead, galvanized, or unknown service line on 11/14/2024**.** You can see our inventory as of 10/11/2024 by looking under EPA and DNR Regulations – Copper and Lead Inventory at https://www.deforestwi.gov/413/Water-Service-Maintenance

**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. **

What should I do?

Listed below are some steps you can take to reduce your exposure to lead:

- **Learn what your service line material is.** Contact us at 608-807-7083 or hallg@deforestwi.gov or a licensed plumber to determine if the pipe that connects your home to the water main (called a service line) is made from lead, galvanized, or other materials. Protect Your Tap: A quick check for lead is the EPA's online step by step guide to learn how to find lead pipes in your home (www.epa.gov/pyt).
- **Learn about construction in your neighborhood.** Unless your service line is not made of lead or galvanized you should be aware of any nearby construction or maintenance work that could disturb the line. Ground tremors from construction may suddenly cause more lead to be released from lead or galvanized service lines in the area.
- **Use your filter properly.** Using a filter can reduce lead in drinking water. If you use a filter, make sure you use a filter certified to remove lead. Read the directions to learn how to properly

[1] A galvanized requiring replacement service line is a galvanized service line that is or was potentially downstream of a lead service line.

install and use your cartridge and when to replace it. Using the cartridge after it has expired can make it less effective at removing lead. Do not run hot water through the filter.

- **Clean your aerator.** Regularly remove and clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator). Sediment, debris, and lead particles can collect in your aerator. If lead particles are caught in the aerator, lead can get into your water.
- **Use cold water.** Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Remember, boiling water does not remove lead from water.
- **Run your water.** The more time water has been sitting in pipes, the more lead it may contain. Before drinking, flush your home's pipes by running the tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or doing a load of dishes. The amount of time to run the water will depend on whether your home has a lead service line or not, and the length of the lead service line. Residents should contact their water utility for recommendations about flushing times in their community.
- **Have your water tested.** Contact your water utility to have your water tested and to learn more about the lead levels in your drinking water.

What does this mean?

Service line inventories are the foundation from which water systems take action to address a significant source of lead in drinking water. Establishing an inventory of service line materials and identifying the location of lead and GRR service lines is a key step in getting them replaced and protecting public health. Typically, lead enters water supplies by leaching from lead pipes, brass faucets, plumbing with leaded solder, and other plumbing components containing lead. In homes with lead pipes that connect the home to the water main, also known as lead services lines, these pipes are typically the most significant source of lead in the water. Lead pipes are more likely to be found in older cities and homes **built before 1986**. Service lines made of galvanized iron or steel that are (or were previously) downstream of lead service lines are classified as galvanized requiring replacement (GRR) because galvanized service lines that are or ever were downstream from an LSL can adsorb lead and contribute to lead in drinking water. Identifying and ultimately removing lead and GRR service lines is an important way to protect public health.

Currently alternative water supplies (i.e., bottled water, etc) are not needed in the Village of DeForest.

What is being done?

We have identified the number of non-answered "basis of" responses and are quickly working to identify whether we have a viable answer or if it needs to be marked, unknown. We intend to have this rectified by the end of March 2025.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at *http://www.epa.gov/lead* or contact your health care provider.

For more information, please contact Judd Blau at 608-846-6751 or blauj@deforestwi.gov or by mail at 120 S Stevenson St DeForest, WI 53532.

This notice is being sent to you by DeForest Waterworks. Public Water System ID# 11302214.

Date distributed: 2/21/2025.

> **Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail. **

**If you are a renter please share this notice with your landlord.*