

**Q. What is being done to Reduce Lead Corrosion?**

**A.** MWRA and Newton are concerned about lead in your tap water. Although most homes have very low levels of lead, some homes may have lead levels in their tap water above the EPA Action Level of 15 parts per billion (ppb). Greater than 15 parts per billion of lead in drinking water is considered to be high by the EPA. To monitor lead levels, MWRA and your local water department perform a thorough sampling program to test tap water in homes in each community. But not just any homes. Under EPA regulations, homes that are likely to have high lead levels--usually older homes which may have lead service lines or lead solder--must be tested at first flush after water has been sitting overnight. The EPA rule requires that 90% of these worst case samples must have lead levels below the Action Level of 15 ppb.

**Q. How did the city determine who has a lead water service pipe?**

**A.** The city's records indicate that the lead pipe was used prior to 1930, therefore any water service that was installed prior to 1930 may contain lead pipe and you will be notified by certified letter, or you can call customer service at 617-796-1000 or the water service department 617-796-1640

**Q. Who is responsible for the portion of the removal of the lead water service pipe?**

**A.** The city is responsible for the portion of the water service within the public Right of Way; the homeowner is responsible for the portion of the water service on their property.

**Q. Will I be responsible for the cost to remove my portion of the lead service pipe?**

**A.** If your service line needs to be replaced, the City will provide details of a program to minimize the costs to you

**Q. How long will it take to determine the cost of replacement?**

**A.** We anticipate our contractor to have a preliminary result with 4-6 months

**Q. How do I have my water tested for lead?**

**A.** Please visit the MWRA website [www.mwra.state.ma.us](http://www.mwra.state.ma.us) for certified laboratories, or contact Newton Customer Service at 617-796-1000

**Q. What can I do now to reduce the risk of lead in my drinking water?**

**A.** Always flush your water for at least a minute or until cold before consumption, never use hot (tap) water to cook with and visit [www.newtonma.gov](http://www.newtonma.gov) for additional information

**Q. Why is blue paint all over the street and blue flags on my property?**

**A.** The blue paint and flags represent the location of your water service. This needs to be done in order to determine the scope of work to replace your water service.

**Q. What if I decide not to replace my portion of the lead water service pipe?**

**A.** After replacing the city's portion of the water service, a city employee will take a sample within 72 hours of that work. The sample will be tested and results will be forwarded to the homeowner within 3 days of receiving results.

If you need additional information please refer to City of Newton website at [www.newtonma.gov](http://www.newtonma.gov) or Massachusetts Water resource Authority at [www.MWRA.gov](http://www.MWRA.gov) or contact us at customer service 617-796-1000 Monday thru Friday 8:30 am to 5:00pm, Tuesday evenings till 8pm or at our water and sewer office at 617-796-1640 from 7:00 am will 3:00 pm.

