

## After Lead Water Pipe Replacement – When is Water Lead Free?

Your home has recently had the lead water service connection replaced from the city water main to your water meter. With a little more work, most homes can soon expect to have lead free water.

Recent studies have shown small particles of lead can remain in your home's internal plumbing after lead water service connection replacement work is complete. It is suggested the frequent flushing of your home's internal plumbing (as was done before replacement work was complete) can speed up the removal of these particles. This flushing process includes **running cold water taps before you consume water** (remember to only use cold tap water for **drinking** or cooking, since hot water increases the leaching of lead and other metals from your plumbing); **remove and clean tap screens** (after lead water service connection replacements it is recommended this be done more frequently as more lead particles may have broken free during replacement work); there is also some benefit seen from draining hot water heaters to remove accumulated sediment which may contain lead.

For more information on flushing visit our website at [Saskatoon.ca/leadpipes](http://Saskatoon.ca/leadpipes).  
[saskatoon.ca/sites/default/files/documents/lead\\_in\\_drinking\\_water\\_brochure\\_december\\_14.pdf](http://saskatoon.ca/sites/default/files/documents/lead_in_drinking_water_brochure_december_14.pdf)

The length of time it takes to remove residual lead from your home's internal plumbing depends on two main factors, the length of your water service connection, and the frequency of flushing. Longer lead water service connections have more opportunity to leach lead than shorter lead water service connections. Running cold water taps to flush your home's internal plumbing will help remove lead particle built up. Thus, the more flushing that is done and the shorter the water service connection, the sooner flushing will be complete.

The average time frame has been estimated to be 2 to 3 months (source [HealthCanada.ca](http://HealthCanada.ca)).  
[www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/pubs/water-eau/lead-plomb-eng.php](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/pubs/water-eau/lead-plomb-eng.php)

If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water or to determine when your drinking water is lead free, you can have your tap water tested by a private, accredited licensed laboratory.

Although your lead water service connection has been replaced, and water provided by the City is virtually lead free, some homes may still have lead in their internal plumbing:

*“The most significant source of lead in drinking water is usually from lead service lines (water pipes that link the house to the main water supply), **although leaching can also occur from lead solder in plumbing, or from fittings such as faucets made of brass.**”* Health Canada tips to reducing exposure to lead from drinking water (October 11/16) <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/pubs/water-eau/lead-plomb-eng.php>