



Lead Free Savannah

A summary of the City of Savannah's response to EPA's new Lead and Copper Rules

History of Lead in USA

Greek philosophers, scientists, and US Presidents have known about the hazards of lead. The history of lead in America is very lengthy because it was used in so many things from paint, gasoline, piping, canning etc. Regulation of lead began with the passing of the Clean Air Act and the creation of the EPA.

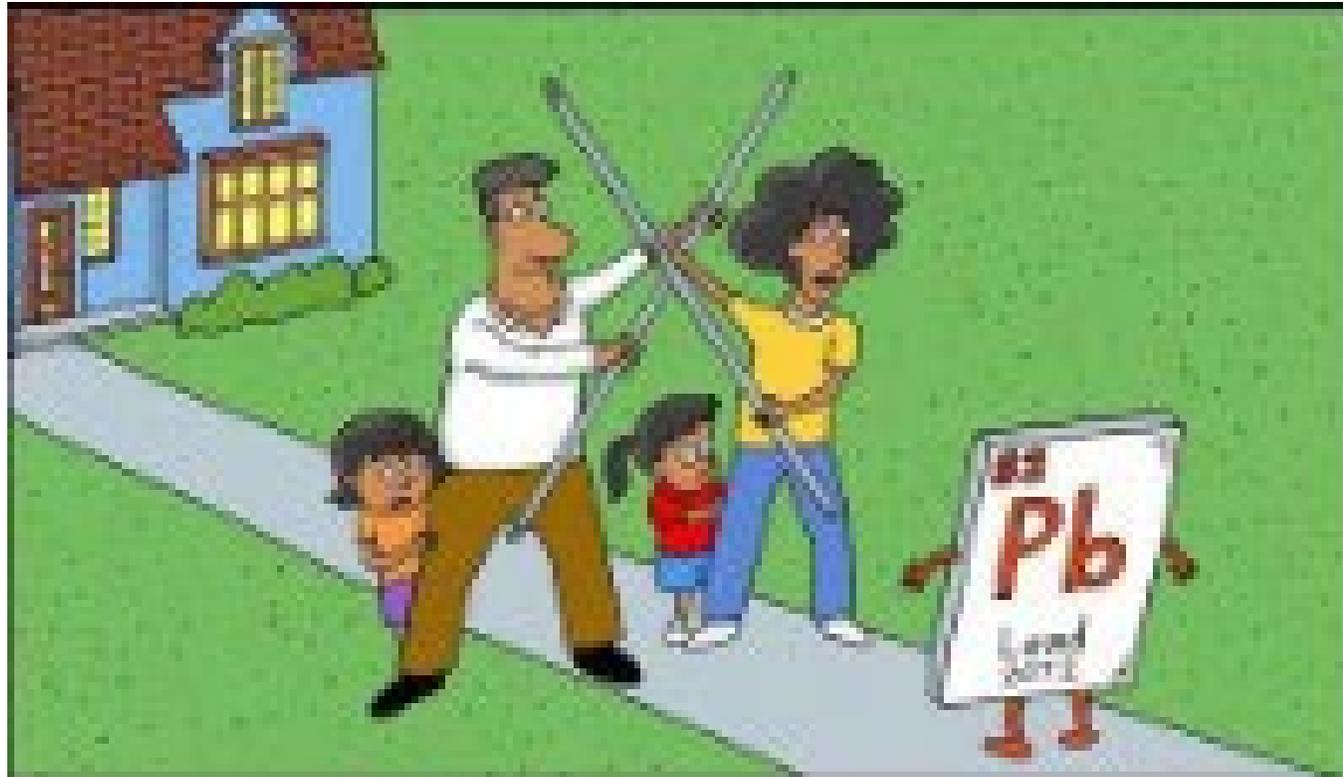
- 1970 Clean Air Act began regulating lead
- 1973 Clean Air Act required availability of one nonleaded gasoline option
- 1978 Lead banned in residential paint
- 1986 Safe Drinking Water Act banned lead from plumbing materials
- 1994 EPA adopted Lead and Copper Rules for drinking water
- 1996 EPA bans use of lead in all gasoline
- 2021 EPA revised Lead and Copper rules for drinking water

Use this resource for more details on the timeline on lead:

https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/campaigns/get_the_lead_out/timeline.html

How does lead get into drinking water?

<https://youtu.be/PqFHrae92OM>



The goal of EPA's revisions to the Lead and Copper Rules is to remove lead from drinking water pipes, plumbing and fixtures. To obtain this goal water systems must do the following:

- Complete an inventory of all public and private water service lines. This inventory will be made available to the public
- Increase education and outreach to the public.
- Complete water testing at all elementary schools and middle schools.
- Complete water testing at all registered daycares (20% annually).
- Create a lead service line replacement program.
- Create action plan and notifications in conjunction with testing protocols.

What is the City doing? (updated 9/2024)

The City of Savannah Water Resources Division has a plan to complete all requirements of the USEPA's Lead and Copper Rule revisions. This is what we've done thus far:

- Information regarding elements of the new lead and copper rules have been available on the City's Water Resources webpages under the title "Lead Free Savannah" since 2022.
 - Information includes videos explaining the importance of the new rules and how to determine if lead pipes are present in home plumbing.
 - Utility bill inserts have provided customers with important information regarding the lateral inventory and incentives for those who participated in the Lead Pipe Survey.
 - PIO, Utility Billing and 311 Call Center staff have been informed in preparation for the upcoming October 16th deadline and potential national media coverage.
- The lateral inventory is due on October 16, 2024, and will be available to the public on the City of Savannah Water Resources Lead Free Savannah page.
- Staff has prepared a plan and protocol for school testing. Results of school and daycare testing will be available to the public on the City of Savannah Water Resources Lead Free Savannah page. School and daycare water testing must be completed over a five-year period. The USEPA will provide more information school and daycare testing requirements and the starting dates in 2025.

Resources

Visual scratch testing

Lead is a dull gray color and very soft. If scraped with a key it will turn a bright silver color. Even a very strong magnet will not stick to lead.

DC Water: Understanding your Water Service Pipe

<p>Types of water pipes Follow the guidance below or contact a licensed plumber to determine the material of your water pipes. To identify the material of your service pipe material on private property, check your household water service connection, typically located in the basement.</p> <p>Homeowners should identify and replace old household pipes, particularly galvanized plumbing and sources of lead. The type of household plumbing can vary throughout your household.</p>	<p>Lead  A dull, silver-gray color that is easily scratched with a coin. Use a magnet - strong magnets will <i>not</i> cling to lead pipes.</p> <p>Galvanized  A dull, silver-gray color. Use a magnet - strong magnets <i>will</i> typically cling to galvanized pipes.</p> <p>Copper  The color of a copper penny.</p> <p>Plastic  White, rigid pipe that is joined to water supply piping with a clamp.</p>
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Source: DC Water

[How to determine if you have lead pipes](#)

Link to National Public Radio App for lead pipe identification.

The City of Savannah has been testing for lead in drinking water since 1991. Because of our historic low levels we are only required to test for lead every 3 years. The test results for your water system can be found here:

[Savannah Water Quality Report](#)

For more information about the City of Savannah Water Resources response contact [Lead Free Savannah](#)