



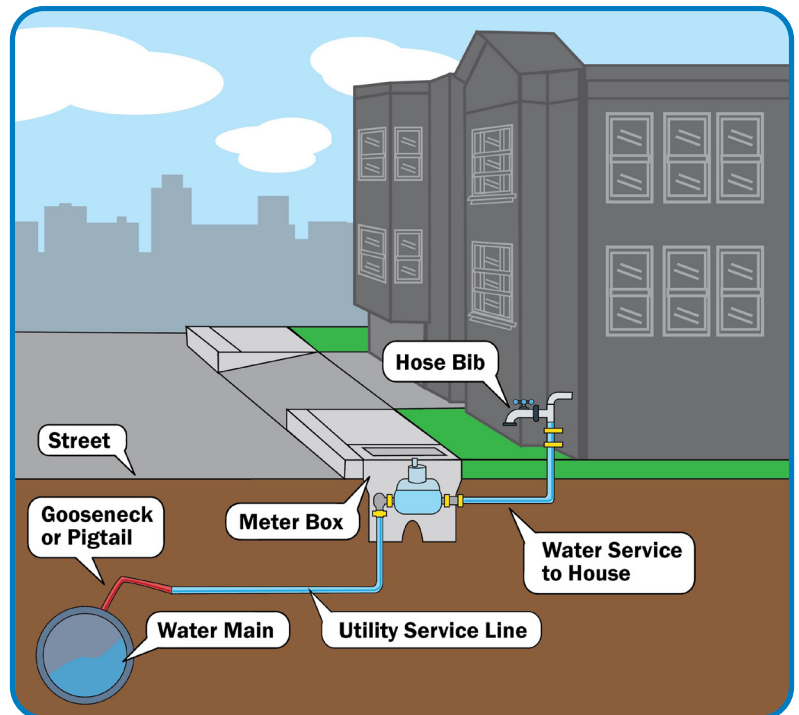
Lead and Your Drinking Water

- Planned Improvements to Water Service Lines

WE'RE MAKING SYSTEM UPGRADES

Prior to 1950, water utilities around the country commonly used lead service lines and components to connect water mains to the services lines for homes.

In the 1980s, SFPUC removed all known lead utility service lines (approximately 7,000 lines) and does not expect to find additional lead service lines in the water system. If any are found, they will be quickly removed. However, there are galvanized utility service lines that use flexible lead components to connect to the water main. These flexible lead components, commonly called goosenecks, pigtails, or whips, are approximately 3 feet in length and may contribute low levels of lead to drinking water (see diagram). Under Senate Bills 1398 and 427, the State of California required utilities to inventory and then remove these lead components. SFPUC also plans to remove all galvanized utility service lines downstream of the lead components as a part of the effort.



YOUR DRINKING WATER MEETS WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

Yes, SFPUC drinking water consistently meets all federal and state drinking water standards. This includes lead testing every 3 years under the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR). Under the LCR, lead levels must be below 15 µg/L (parts per billion, ppb) in 90% of the samples collected. All LCR results, from 2009 to 2018, are posted at [sfpuc.org/lead](https://www.sfpuc.org/lead).

Despite SFPUC's consistent compliance with LCR requirements, the overall health goal is to have no detectable lead levels in drinking water. Therefore, the State requirement to remove these components supports the overall goal of zero lead in drinking water.

UPGRADES BEGAN IN 2020

San Francisco has 173,374 utility service lines. Less than 3 percent of these service lines have unidentified pipe materials. At the time of publication of this fact sheet, we estimate that by the end of 2022, all unidentified and galvanized service lines will be checked for lead components. Based on field studies and statistical analysis, only a fraction are likely to have lead components (pigtailed) connected to them. We currently estimate that 1,600 utility service line replacements will be needed. This includes flexible lead components and galvanized service lines that are connected to them. About 160 upgrades will be conducted per year over a 10-year period from 2020-2030. If you are impacted by this program, SFPUC will contact you approximately 2 months prior to the upgrade for your property to provide a specific schedule for your property and instructions to follow during and after the upgrade.

THE IMPACTED AREAS ARE SHOWN ON OUR MAP

Based on current SFPUC records, residents who may be affected by this program will be identified on a GIS map located at [sfpuc.org/lead](https://www.sfpuc.org/lead). This map will identify all service locations that are listed as unknown or galvanized material, however, the SFPUC will conduct site inspections at these locations to verify the service line material. If the utility service line is not galvanized (e.g. copper, plastic, etc.) service line replacement will not be needed. The GIS map will be updated periodically based on these findings. Based on field studies, only a fraction of these addresses are likely to have lead components, also called pigtails.

ACTIONS FOR RESIDENTS TO TAKE DURING THESE UPGRADES

The upgrade can temporarily disrupt water quality at your property. All water quality impacts will be short-term. Water quality should return to normal within a month of construction. However, to mitigate any change in water quality due to construction disturbances, SFPUC will provide instructions to flush taps within your property immediately after construction, and will provide a drinking water pitcher with a 6 month supply of replacement filters at no cost.

The SFPUC also plans to remove all galvanized utility service lines downstream (between the meter and the water main), of the lead components or pigtails as a part of the effort. Residents should consider replacing any galvanized water service line connected to the property (the portion of the water service line between the meter and the building).

QUESTIONS?

SFPUC lead programs, including the LUSL Replacement Program, are summarized at [sfpuc.org/lead](https://www.sfpuc.org/lead). SFPUC Water Quality Division can be contacted at **(650) 652-3100** or [sfpuc.org](https://www.sfpuc.org).

SFPUC also provides lead testing services at a discounted fee of \$25 per sample. The fee is waived for participants in the Women Infant Children (WIC) program. Lead testing information can be found at [sfpuc.org/lead](https://www.sfpuc.org/lead).

REFERENCES

- Senate Bill 1398:
leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB1398
- Senate Bill 427:
leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB427
- SWRCB Service Line Inventory (SLI) Status Map:
waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/lead_service_line_inventory_pws.html
- SWRCB – Customer FAQ- LUSL
waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/documents/leadservicelineinpw/lead_service_line_faq_cust.pdf

We're Committed to Quality: Our highly trained chemists, technicians and inspectors consistently monitor the water we serve—throughout our system, every day of the year. For additional information and materials, please visit [sfpuc.org/waterquality](https://www.sfpuc.org/waterquality). For questions about YOUR water, please call 311. You can also visit [311.org](https://www.311.org).

And follow us on    

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