



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Federal Reporting Requirement(s) Not Met for Ripon Water Utility

Our water system recently violated a drinking water requirement. Even though this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

The Ripon Water Utility was required to develop and submit to the State an initial service line inventory that includes all service lines connected to the public water distribution system and characterize the materials of those service lines as either lead, galvanized requiring replacement, non-lead, or lead status unknown. Our system did submit an initial inventory of service lines to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources by October 16, 2024 deadline, but it did not meet all of the EPA federal Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) requirements.

We developed the initial inventory and notified persons served at service connections with service lines made of lead, galvanized, or unknown materials on October 15, 2024. The updated inventory can be found at:

www.cityofripon.com/waterutility.

**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?

You do not need an alternate water source and there is nothing you need to do at this time. You do not need to boil your water or take other actions. Remember, boiling water does not remove lead from water.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit the EPA's websites at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water> and <http://www.epa.gov/lead>.

Premise plumbing and fixtures inside your home or building may contribute lead into drinking water.

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

- **Learn what your service line and premise plumbing material is.** Find out if the pipe that connects from your home to the water main (called a service line) is made from lead, galvanized, or other materials. Ask your water utility or if your utility doesn't have information a licensed plumber may be able to assist. *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 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.

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.

WHAT IS BEING DONE?

A revised service line inventory will be submitted to the DNR and EPA on or before March 28, 2025.

For more information, please contact:

Katie Anding, Asst. Dir. of Public Works at 920-896-0978 or 100 E Jackson Street Ripon WI 54971

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.

This notice is being sent to you by **Ripon Water Utility**. Public Water System ID# 42004765

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