

Lead and Drinking Water

Diana SUD has **NO** known lead or galvanized service lines requiring replacement.

What is lead?

Lead is a naturally occurring metal that is harmful if inhaled or swallowed. Lead can be found in air, soil, dust, pottery, food, and water.

What are the risks of lead exposure?

Lead can cause a variety of adverse health effects if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. These effects may include increases in the blood pressure of some adults; delays in normal physical and mental development in babies and young children; and, deficits in the attention span, hearing, and learning abilities of children. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants and pregnant women.

Are there some homes and businesses that are at a higher risk of having lead service lines or plumbing?

Structures built before the lead ban will be at a higher risk. The lead ban went into effect in Texas in 1988. Plumbing installed before 1988 can have lead in the solder, pipes, faucets, or fixtures, which can leach into the water supply over time.

From 1986 to 2014, plumbing fixtures could contain up to 8% lead to be categorized as, “lead free.” However, current standards for “lead free” fixtures allow no more than 0.25% of lead content.

How can I tell if my home or business has lead plumbing?

Diana SUD has no information on the type of material used in private plumbing lines inside homes and business. Customers who think their home or business could be at risk can hire a licensed plumber to perform an inspection.

Customers may also be able to identify their plumbing material themselves using a key or coin and a refrigerator magnet. Use a key or coin to scrape a small area on the pipe. Check to see if a magnet will stick to the pipe.

- If the scraped area is the color of a penny, the pipe is copper. A magnet will not stick to a copper pipe.
- If the scraped area remains a dull gray, and a magnet sticks to the surface, the pipe is galvanized steel.
- If the scraped area is shiny and silver, the pipe is lead. A magnet will not stick to a lead pipe.

Does the Diana SUD water system have lead service lines?

No, we have no known lead service lines in our water system. We have completed an initial Lead Service Line Inventory for our water system.

Staff conducted a review of historical records to help determine service line construction materials. This review of historical records included water system maps, and repair records pertaining to the water system.

In addition to records review, staff gathered data on service line material through normal operations, such as repair and replacement of service lines and meters.

What is a Galvanized Requiring Replacement service line?

The Environmental Protection Agency identifies a Galvanized Requiring Replacement line as a galvanized service line that is or was at any time downstream of a lead service line. Diana SUD has not identified any of the District owned portions of service lines as GRR.

Will I be notified if my service line is suspected to contain lead or classified as Galvanized Requiring Replacement?

If the service lines at your address are suspected to contain lead or classified as Galvanized Requiring Replacement, you will receive a letter with additional information.

What can I do to reduce or eliminate lead from my drinking water?

Diana SUD is responsible for providing drinking water that meets all federal and state standards but can not control the variety of materials used in plumbing components found in homes and other buildings. If you are worried about lead exposure, here are some steps you can take:

- Flush your tap water by letting the water run for several minutes if it has been sitting in your pipes for several hours, such as first thing in the morning or upon returning from work.
- Use only cold-water for drinking, cooking, or preparing baby formula.
- Remove and clean faucet screens or aerators.
- Use a filter certified to remove lead.
- When replacing plumbing components or faucets, make sure the products have been tested and certified to “lead free” standards.

How can I get my water tested?

If you are concerned your home plumbing may contain lead, you may want to have your water tested by a state certified laboratory.

A list of certified laboratories is available on the TCEQ website:

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/pwss.html>.

Contact labs directly for information on cost and sampling bottles.

Where can I find additional information on lead in drinking water?

Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 800-426-4791, or EPA’s website at <http://www.epa.gov> under the Drinking Water Resources tab.