

Lead Water Service Lines in Des Moines



History of Lead

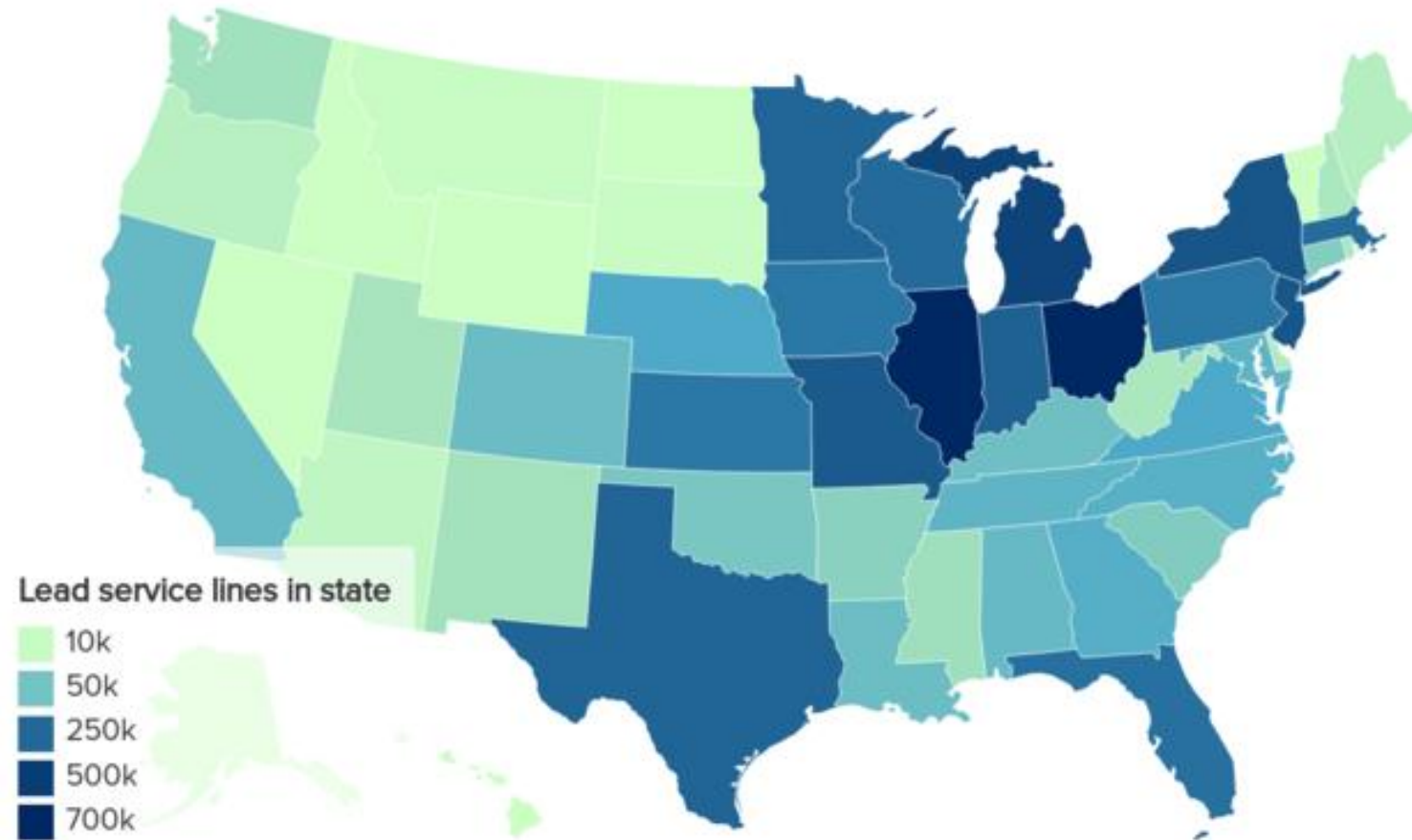


- Lead used by the ancient Roman Empire.
- By 1900, more than 70% of U.S. cities were using lead for conveying water.
 - Less expensive, more durable than iron, malleable
- Earliest health concerns raised in 1859, no concerted effort to ban or limit lead until 1920s.
- 1940s – many utilities quit using lead as WWII disrupted the lead pipe supply
- Finally banned lead in plumbing materials in 1986.
- Lead can harm brain development resulting in learning and behavioral problems in children.



Where's the lead?

There are an estimated 6.1 million lead services lines—pipes that connect a water main to a building's plumbing—still in use across America



Source: American Water Works Association

Drinking Water Quality

- DMWW water is safe to drink.
 - This is not a lead in drinking water issue.
 - This is a lead service line replacement issue.
- Water leaving our facilities does not have lead in it.
- Lead can come from plumbing lines and old faucets.
- DMWW collects 50 samples/year.
- Historically & currently, DMWW has been in compliance.



Water Service Line Ownership

Des Moines
Water Works
Water You Can Trust For Life

DES MOINES WATER WORKS' RESPONSIBILITY

Maintenance and repair of all utility water mains and water meters.

PROPERTY OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY

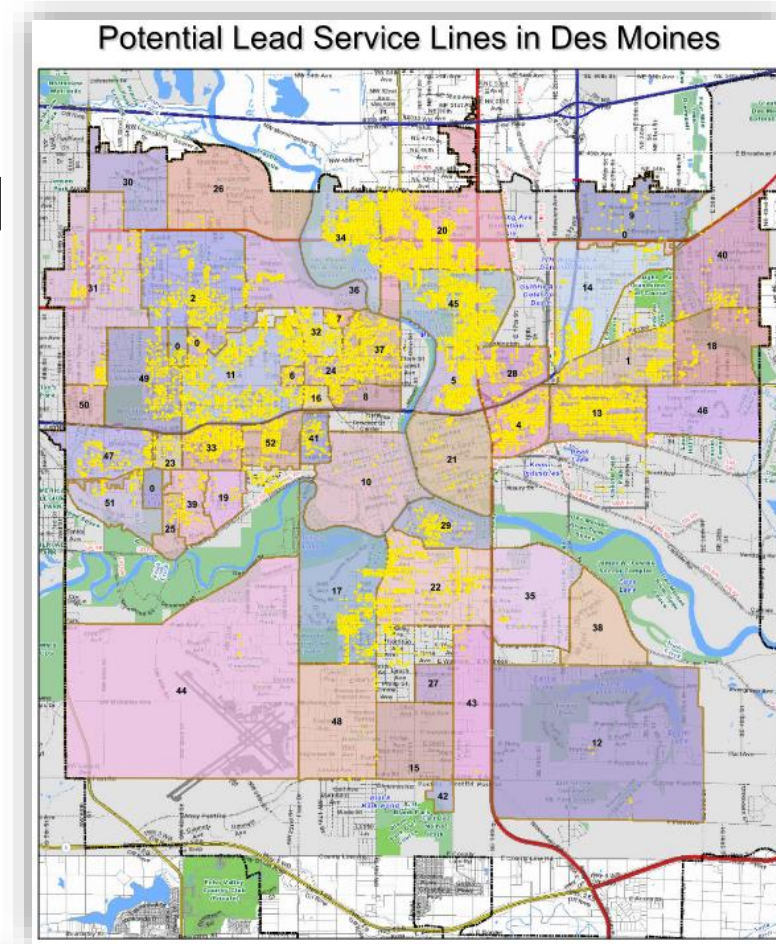
Maintenance and repair of the entire service line from the water main to the water meter, including the corporation (tap) and shutoff valve (stop box)

Water Service Line Responsibility

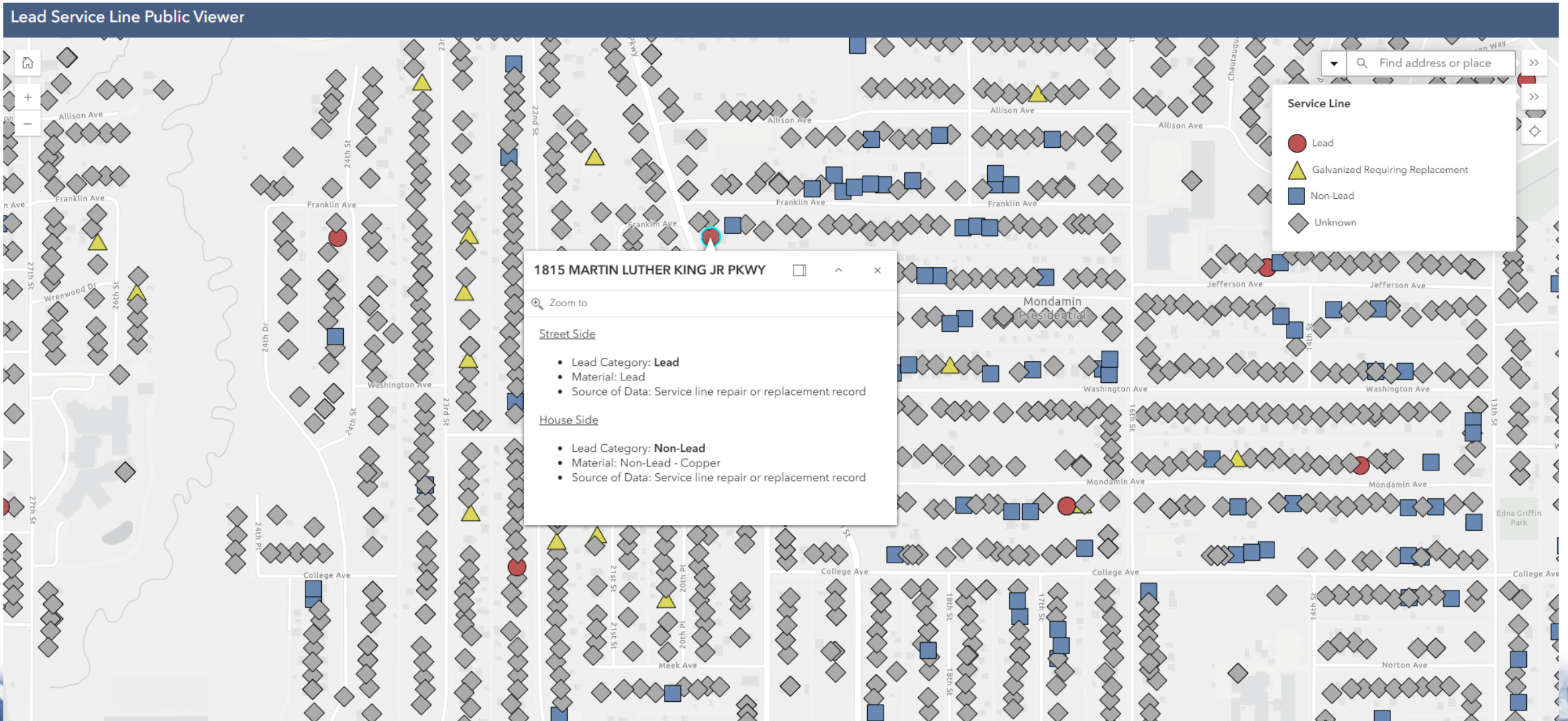


Lead Service Lines in our Community

- No records on service line material
 - Tap date and tap size were only information recorded
- Both 1/2" and 3/4" diameter services can be lead
 - Typically residential properties
- Plumbing community – 1940 & older are lead
 - Almost all within the City of Des Moines
- Lead was the standard from the main to stop box
- Galvanized was common from the stop box to meter



Website Look-up Feature



Des Moines Water Works

Water You Can Trust for Life

Thank you for taking steps to identify your service line material. In the below survey, you will learn how to identify your service line, check the material, and upload a photo. We recommend that you complete this survey on a phone or a tablet.

Section 1: Resident Information

Please provide your contact information below. It is important that we can reach you for more information about your service line or to schedule an inspection or replacement. Your information will never be provided to a 3rd party.

Address Search

Start typing your address then select from the list.

-Please select-

If your address is not in the dropdown list above, please type it here:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TSZHJEVFhz8>

Des Moines
Water Works

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SERVICE LINE IDENTIFICATION



Identifying Service Line Material Type

Lead Pipe

If the scraped area is shiny and silver, your service line is lead. A magnet will not stick to a lead pipe.



Galvanized Steel Pipe

If the scraped area remains a dull gray, and a magnet sticks to the surface, your service line is galvanized steel.



Copper Pipe

If the scraped area is copper in color, like a penny, your service line is copper. A magnet will not stick to a copper pipe.



Environmental Protection Agency Rule

- Lead and Copper Rule Improvements
- Replacement required within 10 years
 - Timeline starts in 2027
 - No partial replacements allowed
- Utility must try and get customer to replace their lead service line
- Utility is not responsible for the cost of replacement



Notice: Lead Service Line OCTOBER 2025 UPDATE

Dear Customer,

Des Moines Water Works (DMWW) is committed to providing clean, safe drinking water. This notice contains important information for everyone who drinks or cooks with water at your property.

What we found:

- Part of the pipe that connects your home to the water main is made of **lead**.
- This pipe is part of your property's plumbing and runs from the water main to your water meter [SEE GRAPHIC].

Important:

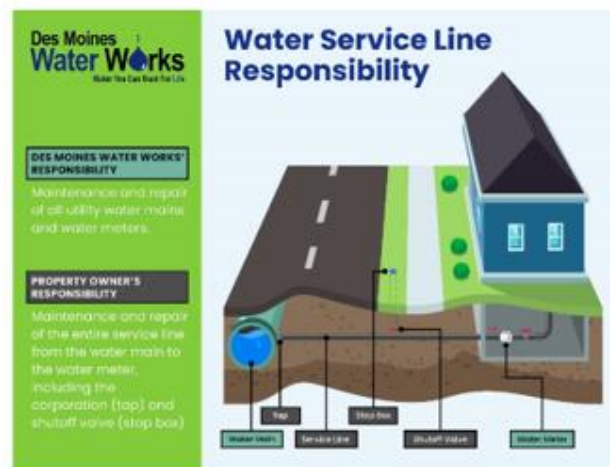
- Water leaves DMWW treatment plants lead-free.
- Our treatment methods **reduce the risk of lead** from your plumbing.
- However, **lead in your service line can still leach into water**, especially during construction, maintenance, or if water sits in the pipes for a long time.

Next steps:

1. Review the **included information** on health effects of lead and ways to reduce exposure.
2. Learn about **replacement options** for your lead service line.
3. Contact us if you want your water **tested** or have questions.

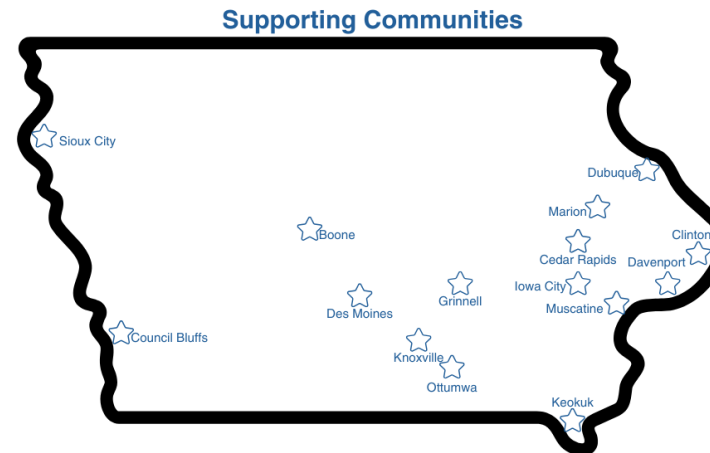
Protecting your family's health is DMWW's **top priority**.

Des Moines Water Works
Phone: 515-283-8754
Email: lead@dmww.com



Disclosure Language

13. Are there currently, or have there ever been, any lead water service lines present? Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown ☐
If yes, please provide more information.



NEW SUBSECTION.

3A. "Lead service line - means a service line which is made of lead. A galvanized service line is considered a lead service line if the line ever was or is currently downstream of any lead service line or service line of unknown material. For the purposes of this subsection, "downstream - means the section of the service line between a lead service line and the water meter.

NEW SUBSECTION.

4A. "Service line - means the pipe connecting the water main to the interior plumbing in a building. For the purposes of this subsection, "service line includes the pipe from the water main to the water meter, not including interior plumbing.

ARC 9592C

REAL ESTATE COMMISSION[193E]

Notice of Intended Action

Proposing rulemaking related to seller property condition disclosure and providing an opportunity for public comment

The Real Estate Commission hereby proposes to amend Chapter 14, "Seller Property Condition Disclosure," Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code section 543B.18.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code chapters 17A and 543B.

Purpose and Summary

This chapter sets forth guidance to real estate licensees pertaining to seller disclosure requirements and also provides a template. This chapter is being amended to support statutory changes enforced by 2025 Iowa Acts, House File 846, which requires the seller to disclose if their property has, or had, any lead water service lines.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the State of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

This amendment is not subject to waiver.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit written or oral comments concerning this proposed rulemaking, which must be received by the Commission no later than 4:30 p.m. on October 21, 2025. Comments should be directed to:

Ashley Thompson
Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing
6200 Park Avenue, Suite 100
Des Moines, Iowa 50321
Phone: 515.725.9035
Email: ashley.thompson@dia.iowa.gov

How to Help Homeowners

- Education
 - DMWW will notify homeowner of lead, galvanized, or unknown annually
 - Make homeowners aware of replacement cost (\$10-12k) and 10-year deadline
 - New Disclosure Language - Time of Transfer Requirement
- Financial Assistance
 - State/Federal Funding
 - Local Funding



The Future

- LSL Replacement Funding – Very Important!
- Possible Future Enforcement
 - Once exposed, must replace
 - Condition of Service
- Service Line Protection Coverage



Questions?

Contact us:

lead@dmww.com

515-283-8754





Current Lead Service Line Replacement Project

- **Scope:** Full LSL replacement from main to meter
 - No partial replacements
 - No cost to property owner
 - Property owner can opt in or opt out
- **Location:** Portion of Drake Neighborhood
 - Between 17th and 28th Streets
 - Between I-235 and University Avenue
 - Selected based on socioeconomic scoring from the Iowa Dept of Natural Resources
- **Details**
 - 400 properties eligible
 - Federal \$ - State Revolving Fund (\$4M)
 - Average Cost per line \$10,000-\$12,000
 - 8 hours to complete

