



Dear Customer,

We are writing to notify you that we recently completed an initial service line inventory for our water system. **This inventory helps us identify the materials used in water service lines that deliver drinking water to residences from the main line.** Service lines are partly owned by the Brownsville Public Utilities Board (on public property) and partly by the customer (on private property).

During the initial inventory, we were unable to determine the material of the service line that provides water to your home.

Currently, your service line material is classified as UNKNOWN in our inventory, and could potentially be made of lead. To ensure the safety and quality of your water, we need your help in identifying the material of your service line.

Your Water Service Line Consists of Two Parts:

- **Public Portion (BPUB-Owned):** BPUB owns this section, which runs from the water main to your property line.
- **Private Portion (Customer Service Line):** This section extends from your property line into your home. It is owned by you.

We need your assistance identifying the material of the **private portion of the service line only.**

How Do I Verify My Service Line Material?

- **Visual Inspection:** If you don't know your service line material, you can complete a visual inspection where the service line enters your home. Common service line materials include plastic and copper. Some service lines may be made of lead or galvanized materials. It can typically be found from the water meter to the shut-off valve or approximately 18 inches past the foundation.
- **Share Information:** If you already know the material of your service line or have any additional information that may indicate the service line material (i.e., previous service line replacements at your residence or residential build year), please let us know.

To share your home's service line information, please reach out to us via phone, email or complete the survey:

Phone: (956) 983-6160

Email: InventoryInfoDL@brownsville-pub.com

Survey: <https://bit.ly/BPUBSurvey>.

If the Brownsville Public Utilities Board finds lead service lines during our service line inventory, we will work to replace them with safe, non-lead materials, ensuring that all residents are served with safe and reliable drinking water.

What is Lead and How Does it Enter Water?

Lead is a toxic heavy metal that can affect both humans and animals. It typically enters drinking water when plumbing materials containing lead corrode. Common sources include lead pipes, service lines, and some faucets. Lead can also come from older paint, contaminated soil, or certain household products. Importantly, lead in drinking water is tasteless, colorless, and odorless and can only be detected by lab analysis.

What are the Health Effects of Lead?

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, along with new or worsening learning and behavior problems. Pregnant women exposed to lead may increase the risk of adverse health effects in their children. In adults, lead exposure can lead to higher risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, and kidney or nervous system issues.

If you are concerned about your child's health, contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child's blood tested for lead.

What are Best Practices to Reduce Lead in Drinking Water?

- **Run your water before use.** After periods of time without using water (like in the morning or after returning home), let it run for a few minutes before drinking or cooking. Activities like showering or running the dishwasher can also help flush your pipes.

Clean your aerator. Regularly clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator). Sediment, debris, and even lead particles can build up here and enter your water.

- **Investigate plumbing materials:** Inspect your faucets, fixtures, and pipes. Some may contain lead or be joined with lead solder. If you find lead materials, consider replacing them or using a certified water treatment device that removes lead.
- **Use cold water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula.** Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap as lead dissolves more easily into hot water.
- **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water does not remove lead.
- **Consider filtering your water.** Obtain an ANSI (American National Standards Institute) water filter that is certified to remove lead.

Your Role in Ensuring Safe Water

It's important for residents to share information about their service line materials. This helps to ensure safe drinking water for everyone.

For questions regarding our lead service line inventory or verifying your service line material, please contact us at **(956) 983-6160** or by email at **InventoryInfoDL@brownsville-pub.com**.

Sincerely,

Brownsville Public Utilities Board

Texas Public Water System (PWS) ID#: TX0310001

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Scan this QR code to
access our complete
service line inventory.