

# Clean Water Shouldn't Be a Pipe Dream

When you turn on your faucet, you expect that the water that comes out will be safe to drink. However, lead is being discovered in tap water with alarming frequency. In Flint, Michigan, Newark, New Jersey, and across the country, thousands of children have been exposed to harmful levels of lead in their drinking water. **Here in New York, clean water is at risk as well.**

## How does lead get into drinking water?

The greatest contributor to lead in drinking water are pipes, specifically pipes known as lead service lines. Lead service lines connect buildings to municipal water mains. The use of lead in service lines has been banned—pipes with more than 8% lead were banned in 1986, and pipes with more than 0.25% lead were banned in 2014. Despite this, historic lead lines still exist in many homes and can contaminate your drinking water. Lead can easily transfer from lead pipes into drinking water through a process called corrosion. Corrosion can occur if:

- The water sits in the pipe for too long
- The chemistry, temperature, or flow rate of the water changes

Even if you don't have a lead service line, lead can leach into your water from other sources, including lead plumbing fixtures like faucets.

**No matter where you live, if you suspect your drinking water may be contaminated with lead, you should have your water tested immediately.**

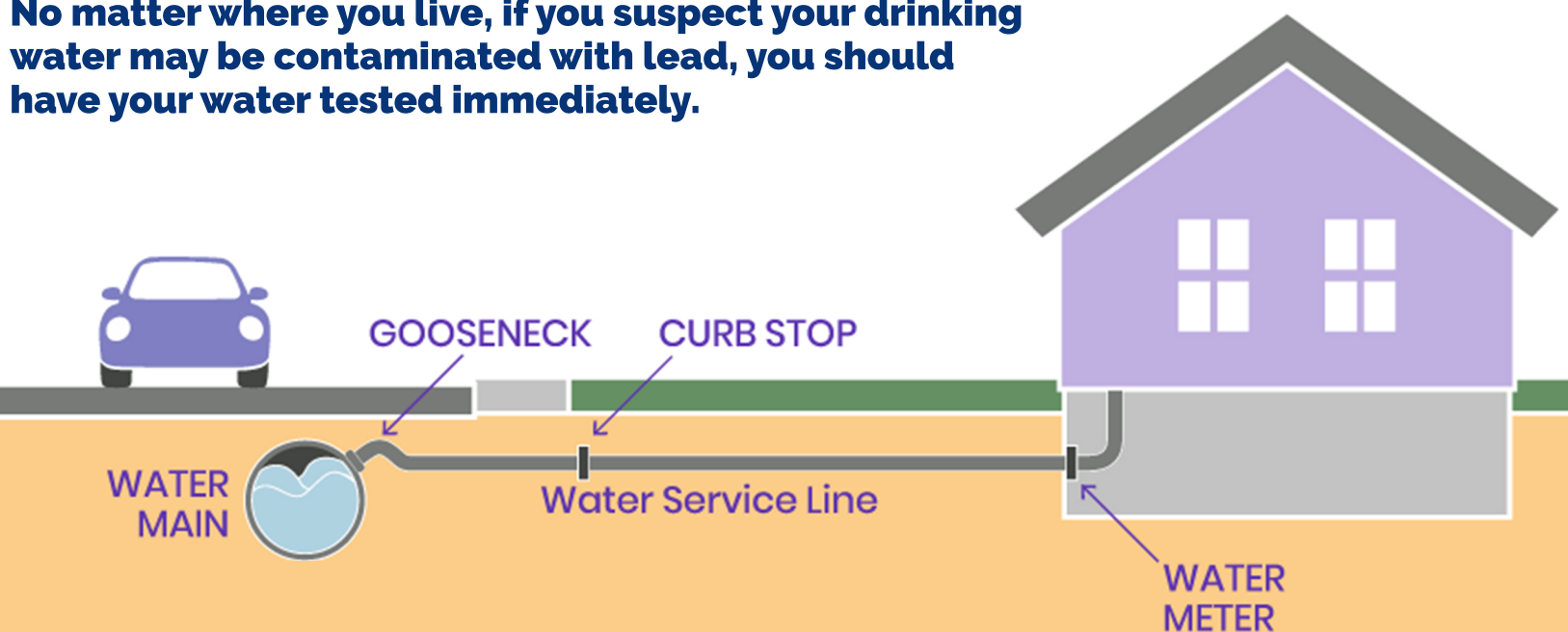
Environmental

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**Be aware of construction on your street. It can disrupt lead pipes and shake lead loose into drinking water.**



# Are there lead service lines in New York?

The threat of lead in drinking water is not limited to Flint. Almost every city in New York has lead service lines.

# 360,000

estimated number of lead service lines in New York

## Where are lead service lines more likely to be found?

- Smaller residential buildings (single-family homes, three-flat apartment buildings, etc.)
- Homes built before 1986, especially during the 1920s and 1930s

**As long as there are lead pipes beneath our feet, contamination is a constant danger.**

Live in NYC?  
Wondering if you have a lead service line?  
Look up the city's online Lead Service Line Map to search your address:  
<http://bit.ly/NYCLeadLines>

