

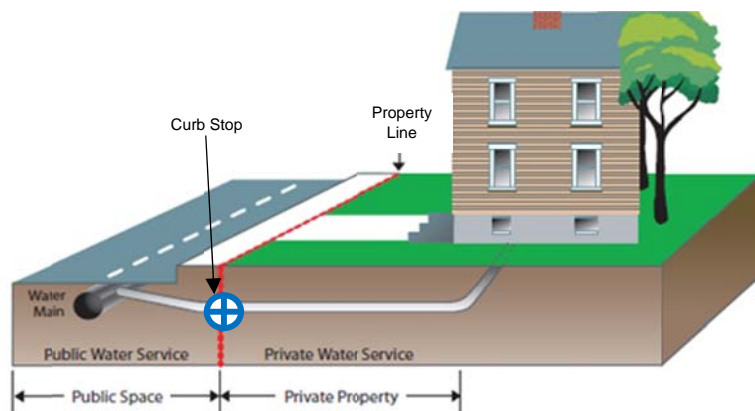
Partial Replacement of Lead Water Service Lines

Building plumbing flushing instructions



January 2017

The water service line that connects your property to the public water main has been found to be made of lead pipe. City Utilities has replaced the section of the lead service line that is owned by City Utilities – that is the portion of the service between the public water main and the curb stop on your property. City Utilities does not replace the privately-owned portion of the service between the curb stop and the building. This portion is owned by and is the responsibility of the property owner. Replacement of just the utility-owned portion of the lead service line is called “partial replacement.”



Lead Levels in Water After Partial Lead Service Line Replacement

After a portion (public or private) of a lead water service line is replaced, if the remaining portion of the lead service line is left in place, it is likely that the level of lead in household tap water will increase for a period of time. This increase in lead is the result of lead service line pipes being disturbed during partial replacement. Lead may also continue to be released into the water from lead or galvanized pipes that exist inside a building or from other sources of lead in the plumbing – such as lead solder – if these have not been removed or replaced along with the lead service line.

Instructions for Flushing Your Household Water System Immediately Following Partial Lead Service Replacement

Following replacement of the utility-owned portion of a lead water line (partial replacement), City Utilities recommends that property owners perform a complete one-time flushing of their household water system using the following procedure:

1. Remove aerators from all water faucets in the home. See below for more on removing and cleaning aerators.
2. Beginning at the faucet nearest to the water meter, turn the cold water faucet on fully. Be sure the drain is open. Let the water run for 5 minutes, then shut off the water before moving to the next faucet.
3. Repeat this procedure at the remaining faucets – one at a time -- throughout the home. Go the lowest level to the last faucet on the top floor. It's important to run water in bathtubs and showers as well as sink faucets.

4. Until flushing is complete, customers shouldn't consume tap water, open hot water faucets, or use an icemaker or filtered water dispenser.
5. Clean the inside of the aerators before re-installing them on the faucet.

Removing and Cleaning An Aerator

Most faucets have an aerator at the end to add air flow to the stream of water, to keep water from spraying out at an angle, and to keep the water from having too much pressure. Following a water main or service line replacement, the aerator can accumulate particles or sediment and may become blocked.

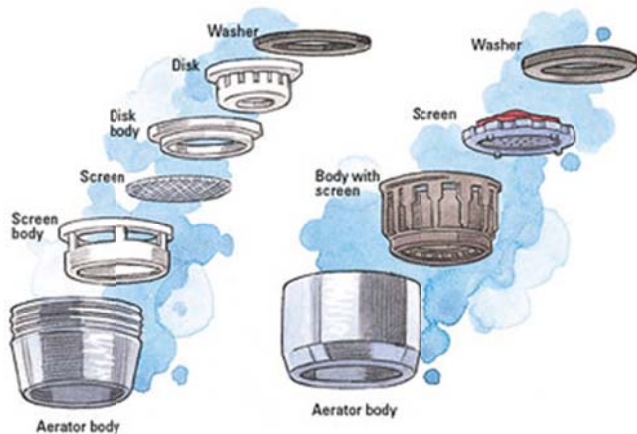
To remove and clean the faucet aerator:

1. Many times the aerator has only been tightened by hand and can be unscrewed from the end of the faucet by hand. If you cannot unscrew the aerator by hand, use pliers to unscrew the aerator. To prevent scratching the finish, place a towel between the pliers and the aerator.



2. Turn the pliers clockwise to loosen the aerator then remove it.
3. Take the aerator apart – remembering how it came apart so you can put it back together.

Typical aerator assemblies:



4. Rinse all of the parts with running water. Tap the screen to remove any embedded particles.
5. Set aside the washer from inside the aerator. Soak the remaining pieces of the aerator assembly in a bowl of vinegar for 30 minutes to remove hard water and other deposits, then brush the parts of the small scrub brush or old toothbrush.
6. Rinse the aerator parts, reassemble and replace on the end of the faucet.
7. Tighten the aerator by hand and turn the water on. If the aerator leaks or if water sprays out the side, you may need to tighten it using pliers. Remember to wrap the aerator with a towel to keep from scratching it.

Suggestions for On-Going Flushing

Each day for the first 30 days after a partial service line replacement you should flush water through your household plumbing by turning on at least one cold water faucet and letting the water run for 10 minutes. This flushing may be accomplished by showering or watering the lawn.

To Replace The Private Portion of a Lead Water Service

City Utilities' customers may elect to voluntarily replace the privately-owned portion of a lead service line at any time. City Utilities will coordinate with the property owner and will perform replacement of the Utility-owned portion of a lead service line at the same the property owner is replacing the private portion of the service line. For more information about voluntary lead service line replacement, please contact City Utilities by calling 311 or (260) 427-8311.