KNOW YOUR
PIPES

Background Information

Lead and Copper Rule Revisions.

In 1991, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) passed a federal regulation called the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR), which requires drinking water utilities to monitor for lead in customers' home water service lines. If high levels of lead are found, the utility must actively provide corrosion control and reduce any risk of exposure. In 2021, the EPA announced additional regulations, called the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR), that establish more specific monitoring, testing, and reporting parameters to address health risks from lead exposure in drinking water.

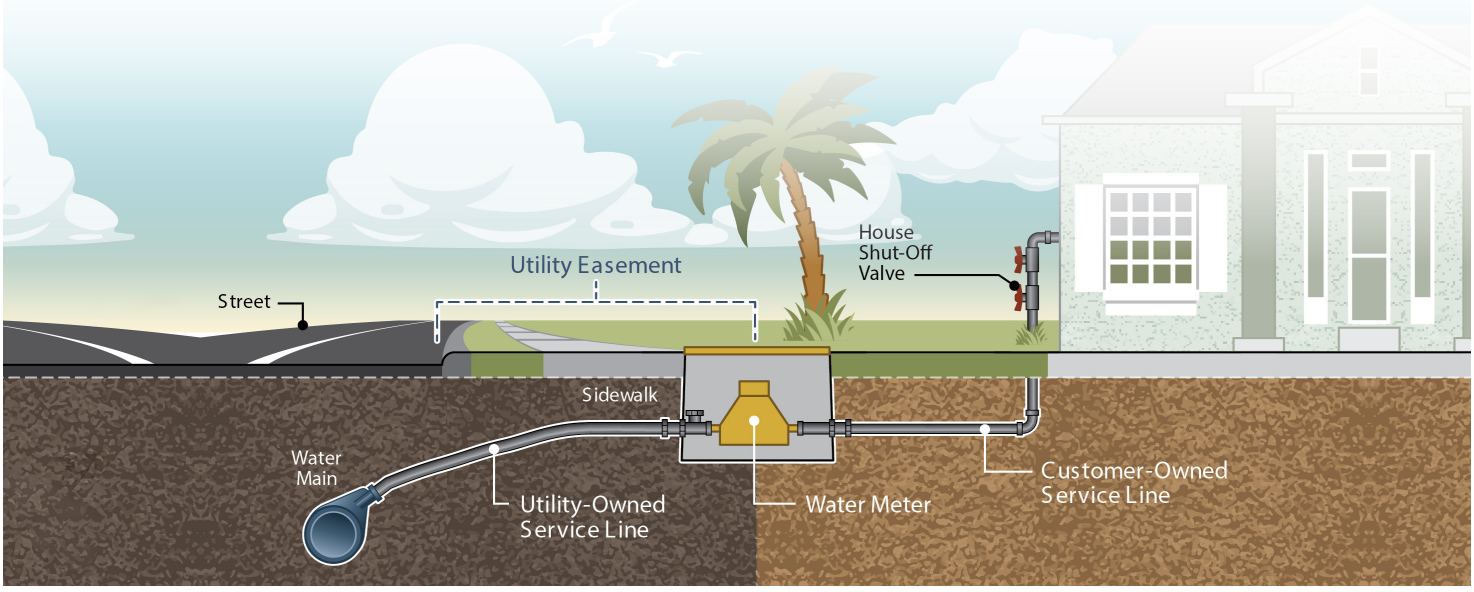
At the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department (WASD), protecting public health and ensuring the safety of our community is our top priority. To align with the EPA regulations and ensure that our customers have the resources and the materials they need to understand the LCRR and are clear on any action they may need to take, WASD implemented the Know Your Pipes Program.

Background

WASD provides safe, high-quality water that meets or exceeds state and federal drinking water standards. The Department has complied with the LCR since it was established. The likelihood of finding lead service lines in our water distribution system is low. Miami-Dade County prohibited the use of lead in water pipe construction in 1976, a decade before a national ban was added to the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Drinking water sources do not typically have naturally occurring lead. Instead, certain types of plumbing materials that transport drinking water to homes and businesses can deposit lead into the water. These plumbing materials include older service lines, faucets, and other fixtures.

A *service line* is the underground pipe that connects your home to the water main, delivering water to faucets, bathtubs, showers, and other water outlets inside the home. The image below shows how service lines are typically structured in Miami-Dade County.



Utility (Public) Side Customer (Private) Side

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WASD is dedicated to the treatment and delivery of safe, high-quality drinking water to all our customers. We want to assure customers that Miami-Dade County regulates water chemistry by adding a corrosion inhibitor to ensure lead levels remain well below the federal regulatory limit when water leaves our treatment facility. Yearly water quality reports can be found on the WASD website.

How You Can Help

The LCRR regulations require all U.S. utilities with water distribution systems to develop a comprehensive water service line material inventory, implement new compliance sampling standards, and make the results publicly available.

Although Miami-Dade County has not allowed lead as a piping material since 1976, there are still properties listed as having service lines made of an unknown material. To complete our inventory, we need your help to find out where lead lines may still exist, and we are asking Miami-Dade County customers to complete a short survey about what their water service lines are made of.

Only customers with service lines of unknown material according to our records are being asked to fill out the survey. To find out if your service line is unknown, we have developed an interactive map which you can access by clicking the link or scanning the QR code below:

Once you access the map, simply:

1. Type in your address.
2. If a Gray Dot is shown at your property, please take the self-reporting survey.

As part of compliance with the LCRR regulations, WASD will provide service line material information to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the inventory database will be available on the webpage.

If you would like additional information or have questions, please contact the Know Your Pipes Customer Care Center at 786-268-6955, email us at knowyourpipes@miamidade.gov, or visit miamidade.gov/knowyourpipes.