



# City of Tampa

Jane Castor, Mayor

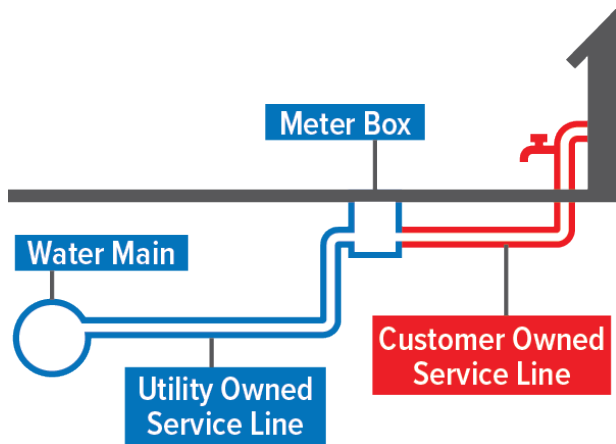
## Water Department

711 E. Henderson Avenue  
Tampa, FL 33602

Call Line: (813) 272-8300

### SUBJECT: Galvanized Service Line Requiring Replacement

Please carefully read this notification for information regarding the Tampa Water Department's new federally required public service line inventory.



As part of new regulations from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Tampa Water Department is improving our inventory of the service lines in our community. This inventory is now publicly available at [tampa.gov/KnowYourPipes](http://tampa.gov/KnowYourPipes). As part of this work, the Tampa Water Department has determined that the customer-owned portion (shown in red) of the water pipe that connects your property to the water main (called a service line) is made of galvanized material and the EPA is requiring it to be replaced.

### Why am I getting this notification?

Galvanized steel piping itself does not pose a risk of lead exposure. However, if it was once connected to lead piping upstream, the rust in galvanized pipes can capture and potentially leach lead into drinking water over time.

The Tampa Water Department has not utilized lead piping as a standardized material type. However, our historical records are unable to definitively confirm that lead piping never existed upstream. Because of this, the EPA is requiring the Tampa Water Department to notify you that your service line must be replaced. You can contact us at (813) 272-8300 if you have any questions about the regulations.

### What is the Tampa Water Department doing?

The Tampa Water Department wants to reassure all its customers that we provide high-quality drinking water that meets or exceeds state and federal standards. In addition, the Tampa Water Department has taken steps, for decades, to produce water that is less likely to interact with metals found in pipes and other plumbing fixtures. These steps help reduce the risk of metals, like lead, from leaching into your drinking water.

## 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. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or worsen existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these negative health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, and kidney, or nervous system problems.

## What can I do now?

Please call (813) 272-8300 if you are planning to replace your service line. We can provide additional guidance throughout the process. We can also give you additional information and tools to help you and your family.

Below are actions that you may take if you are concerned about your drinking water quality.

**Use a water filter.** Your filter should be certified to remove lead. Read any directions provided with the filter to learn how to properly install, maintain, and use your cartridge and when to replace it. Do not run hot water through the filter.

**Clean your aerator.** Regularly remove and clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator) to prevent contaminants from getting into your water.

**Use cold water.** Do not use hot water from the tap for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, as lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Boiling water does not remove lead from water.

**Run your water.** Before drinking, flush your home's pipes by running the tap for three-to-five minutes, taking a shower, doing laundry, or doing a load of dishes.

If you have questions, want to verify your service line material, or believe a service line may have been categorized incorrectly, contact us at (813) 272-8300. For more information on reducing lead exposure and the health effects of lead, visit [epa.gov/lead](http://epa.gov/lead). You can also call the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD (5323) or contact your health care provider.

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