

The Utility highly recommends the replacement of all lead service laterals whenever possible. It is an investment in both health and the value of the property served by the lateral. However, in some cases owners may be unable to do the replacement.

In recent years, improved understanding of water service laterals has revealed that construction work on, or near to, old laterals made of lead results in possible increased lead levels in drinking water. This is due to the actual mechanical disturbance of the lead pipe, which can release lead particulates into the water.

Although the Sheboygan Water Utility has used an approved phosphate treatment since 1994 to coat and minimize corrosion from lead pipes, any disruption of lead water service laterals can dislodge the coating and make this treatment less effective for a period of time following the work.

 If an old lead water service lateral is disrupted, and the entire lateral is not replaced, we then recommend the following:

**1. Flush all your faucets using these steps:**

- ◆ Remove faucet aerators from all water taps in the home. Beginning in the lowest level of the home, fully open the cold water taps throughout the home. Do not turn on the hot water.
- ◆ Let the water run for at least 30 minutes at the last tap you opened (top floor).
- ◆ Turn off each tap starting with the taps in the highest level of the home. Be sure to run water in bathtubs and showers as well as faucets.
- ◆ Do not consume tap water, open hot water faucets, or use icemaker or filtered water dispenser until after flushing is complete.

**2. Clean faucet aerators:**

- ◆ Separate the individual parts.
- ◆ Remove any sediment (mineral or rust build up) on the screen and other parts. If necessary, soak the parts in white vinegar for a few minutes and scrub with a brush.
- ◆ Reassemble the screen parts and re-attach to faucet.



**3. Purchase a home water filter:**

- ◆ A water filter should be used for drinking and cooking. This is particularly important if you are pregnant or have children under age six. More information about filters can be found under the header [Water Quality, Home Water Filters](#) on our website. To remove lead, always look for the NSF 53 or 58 certification.



**4. Have your water tested by a certified lab:**

- ◆ Visit the [Water Quality](#) tab at [SheboyganWater.org](http://SheboyganWater.org) for a list of certified labs.

More information about lead water laterals can be found under the header [Water Quality](#) at [sheboyganwater.org](http://sheboyganwater.org).  
Source: AWWA.org.