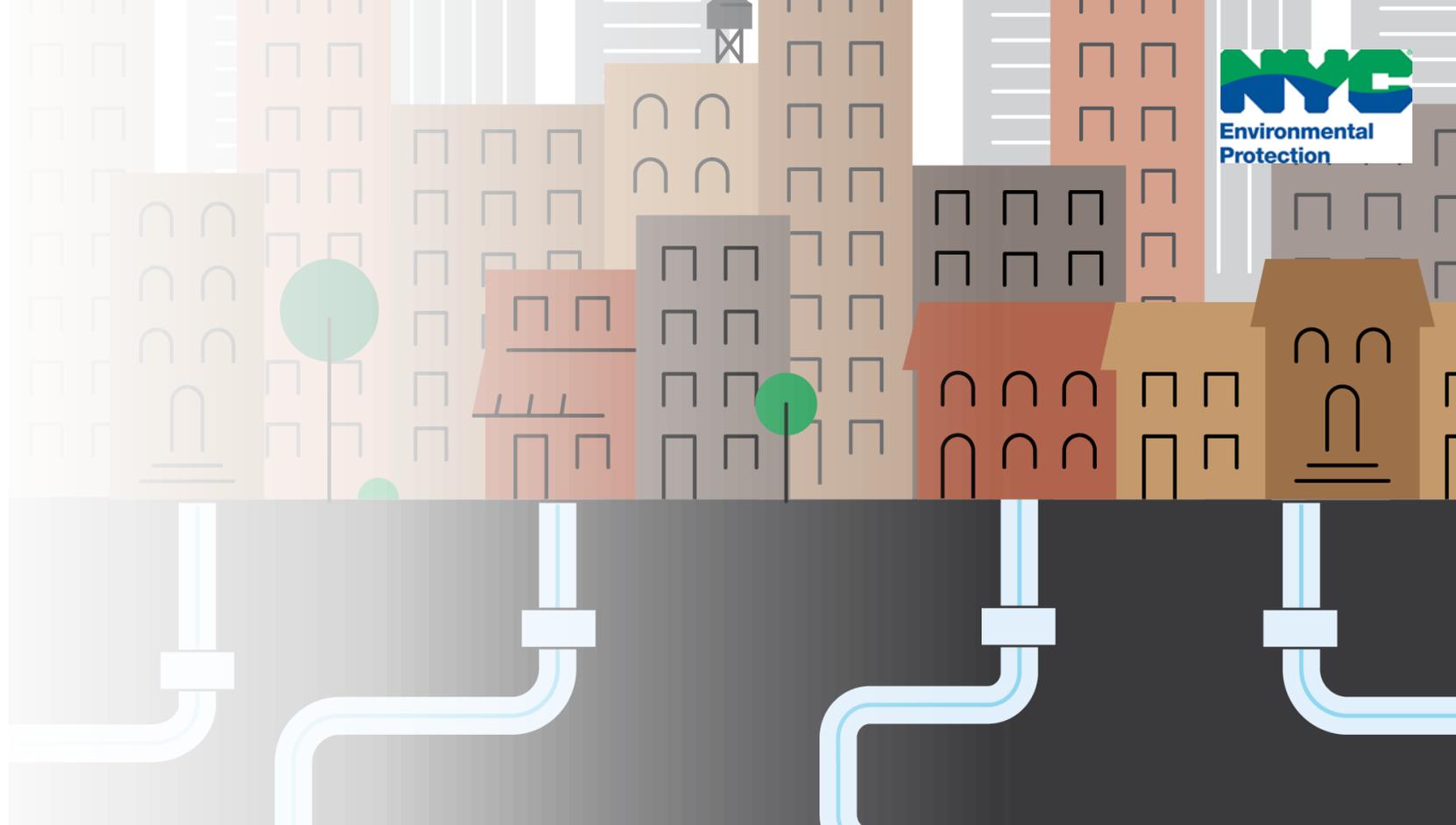




# Lead Water Service Lines



Tara Deighan

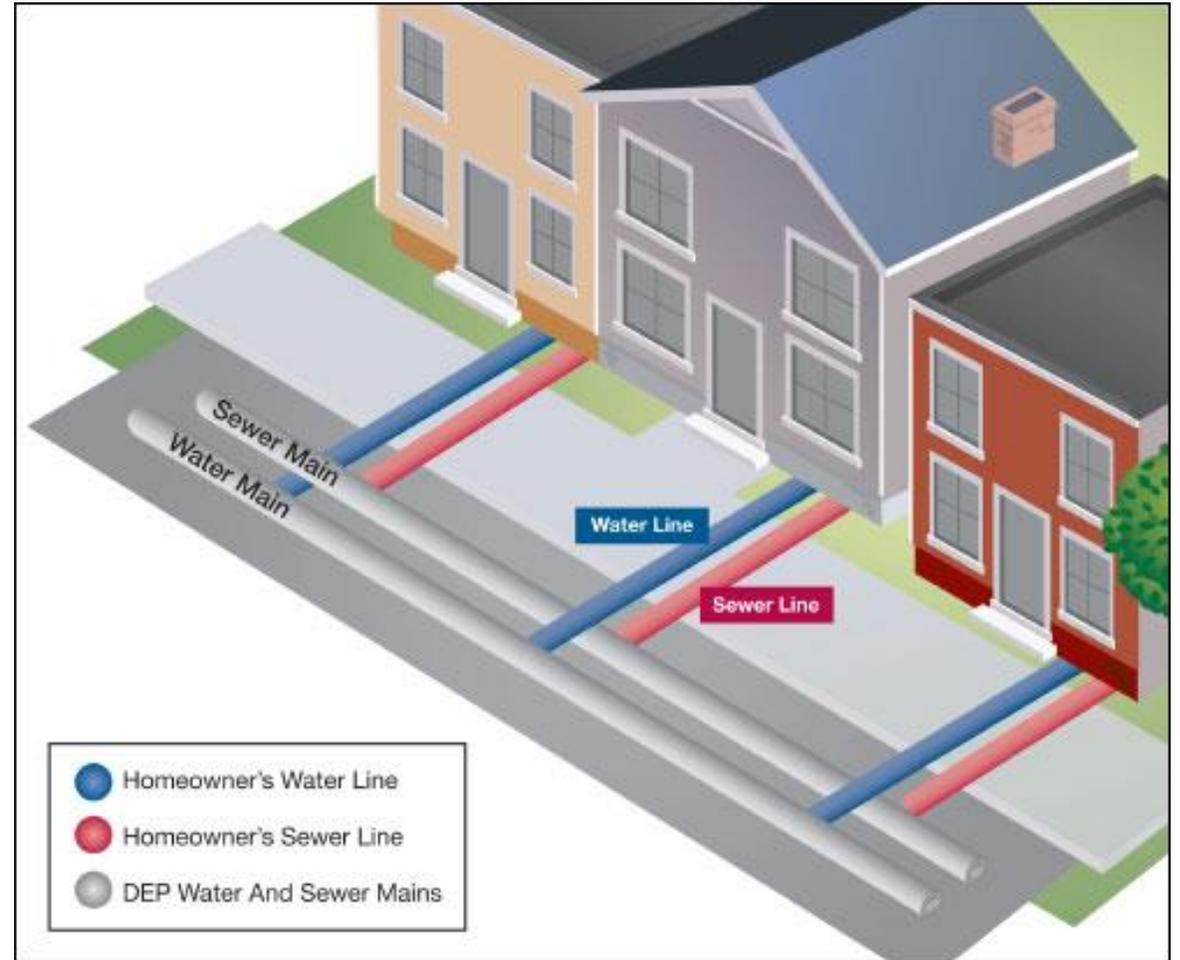
Senior Advisor, Government Relations & Community Affairs

NYC Department of Environmental Protection

[tdeighan@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:tdeighan@dep.nyc.gov) or [communityaffairs@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:communityaffairs@dep.nyc.gov)

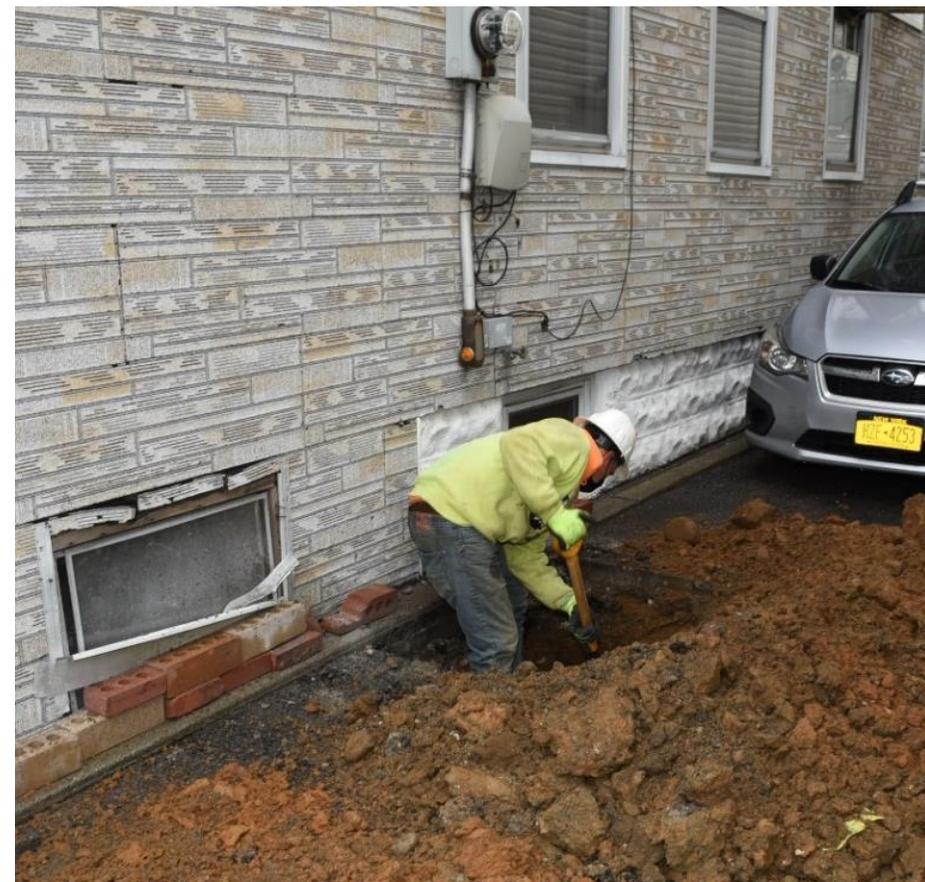
# What is a water service line?

- The pipe that brings water from the city's water main in the street, to your home.
- Homeowners own the pipe in its entirety, from their house to the water main in the street.
- Homeowners are also responsible for maintaining, repairing, or replacing their water service lines.



# Lead Water Service Lines

- New York City's water is delivered lead-free and meets or exceeds federal and state health standards.
- We also treat our water with orthophosphate (a food-grade additive similar to baking soda) which coats pipes to prevent metals from getting into drinking water from household plumbing.
- However, if your private service line and/or household plumbing contain lead, it could increase your risk of exposure to lead through your drinking water.
- Lead can cause serious health problems, particularly for young children and pregnant women.



If you have a lead service line, it is at least 60 years old and should be replaced.

# Water Main Projects & Lead Service Line Replacements

- DEP will offer to replace lead service lines in full when we find them during in-house water main work.
- Emergency Construction contractors will be offering to replace lines in full when they find them during construction.
- DDC water main projects – a pilot is beginning in Winter 2024.



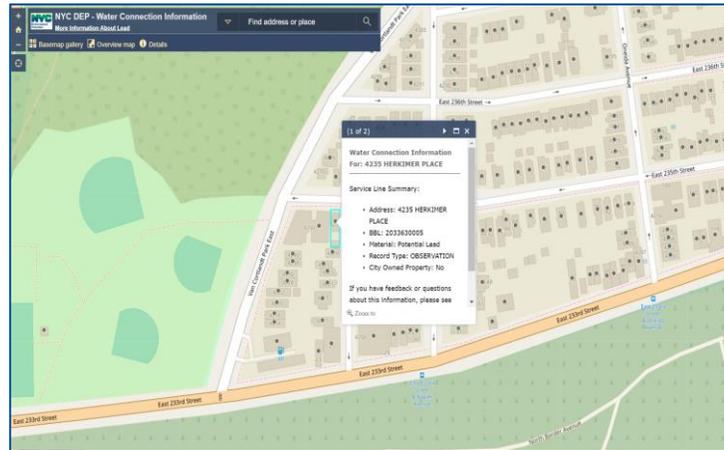
# What if a homeowner can't replace their service line right now?

Search your address in **NYC's Service Line Map** to see what your service line is made of

**Flush** your plumbing

Enroll in the American Water Resource (AWR) **Service Line Protection Program**

**Request a free residential Lead Test Kit** by calling 311



A screenshot of the NYC Service Line Protection Program website. The header includes the NYC Environmental Protection logo and navigation links like 'Pay My Bills', 'About', 'Water', 'Environment', 'Recreation', and 'What's New'. The main heading is 'Service Line Protection Program'. Below this, there is a diagram titled 'Service Line Diagram' showing a house with a service line extending to the street. Text explains that property owners are responsible for maintaining these lines. It also mentions that repairs can be costly and that the AWR offers a voluntary protection program. A section titled 'Eligibility and Cost' states that most residential properties with a single 2-inch or smaller service line are eligible. A table lists the costs: Water Line: \$84.84/year and Sewer Line: \$143.04/year.

An infographic titled 'Water Service Line Replacement at your Home: Flushing Directions'. It provides instructions on how to flush plumbing after a new copper service line is installed. The infographic is divided into three main sections: 1. Flush all plumbing in your house beginning TODAY before using your water. 2. How can I test my water? 3. What should I continue to do to reduce my risk of lead exposure through my plumbing? It includes a checklist of tasks such as removing faucet screens, running cold water from all faucets, and testing for lead. A 'TEST KIT' icon is shown. At the bottom, there is contact information for DEP's Lead Unit and the NYC Environmental Protection logo.

# More Information

## Webpage:

[nyc.gov/dep/lead](https://nyc.gov/dep/lead)

## Homeowners:

All homeowners who have service lines made of lead, galvanized steel, or an unknown material received a notification letter this fall. The letter also provides more information for what they can do to reduce their risk of lead exposure from household plumbing.

## Renters:

Renters can view a service line map to see if their building has a lead service line and get more information by visiting [nyc.gov/dep/lead](https://nyc.gov/dep/lead).

### How can I limit my lead exposure?

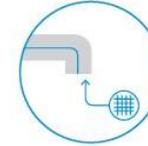
If you have a service line or plumbing fixtures that contain lead, or you don't know what material type they're made of, you can follow these tips to minimize your lead exposure:



**Run**  
your water for at least 30 seconds or until it gets cold. Once the water is cold, run it for 15 seconds more.



**Use Cold Water**  
for cooking, drinking, or preparing infant formula. Hot tap water is more likely to contain lead and other metals.



**Remove & Clean**  
the faucet screen monthly (also called an aerator), where small particles can get trapped.



**Hire**  
a licensed plumber to identify and replace plumbing fixtures and/or service line that contain lead.

### What are the health impacts of lead?

Lead in drinking water can be harmful, especially to young children and pregnant women. NYC's water is healthy and safe to drink. It is delivered virtually lead-free from our upstate reservoir system, but the possible presence of lead in your water service line or interior plumbing may pose a risk. Not every home will have the same risk because each building's plumbing may be different in material and age. Call 311 for more information about the health impacts of lead.