

Health Facts & FAQs

- **Does Dayton have quality water?**

Yes, our water meets or exceeds all Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) health standards. Our extensive water testing indicates there no lead in Dayton water. We have conducted numerous tests for over 80 contaminants that may be in drinking water. Although some contaminants have been detected in the treated water, Dayton consistently supplies water to the public that meets federal and state safe drinking water standards.

- **How does lead get into drinking water?**

The most common cause of lead in drinking water is the corrosion of plumbing fixtures and solders containing lead. There is no detectable lead in the drinking water supplied to the water distribution system by the City of Dayton, Department of Water. The City of Dayton Water Quality Laboratory extensively samples and tests drinking water from sites throughout the distribution system to ensure contaminants like lead are not present in drinking water.

In addition, the treatment process adjusts the pH level and mineral content to deliver non-corrosive drinking water to the distribution system. As a precaution, lead usually can be eliminated from drinking water by allowing cold water to run until it gets as cold as possible before using the water for drinking or cooking.

- **What are the risks of lead exposure?**

Lead can cause a variety of adverse health effects when people are exposed to it. These effects may include increases in the blood pressure of some adults; delays in normal physical and mental development in babies and young children; and deficits in the attention span, hearing, and learning abilities of children.

- **Can I get my water tested for lead?**

Yes, and it is free. For more information on testing your water, you can call Dayton's Division of Water Supply & Treatment at **(937) 333-6030**.

- **What is a water service line and who owns it?**

Your water service line is the below ground pipe that connects your home to the public water main located in the street. The City of Dayton, Department of Water maintains the public section of the service line that runs from the water main to the property line. The homeowner is responsible for maintaining the private section that runs from the property line into the home, as well as any internal plumbing, faucets, or fixtures.

- **What materials make up the water service line?**

Water service lines can be made of lead, copper, galvanized steel, or plastic.

- **What is Dayton doing to identify potential lead service lines?**

As part of our Service Line Compliance Program, City of Dayton Water is taking a two-phase approach to creating a comprehensive inventory of the public and private service lines across our water system.

- 1) The first phase is conducting field investigations of the public and private service pipes at select properties to help us predict the types of pipes used throughout our service area.
- 2) The second phase is for property owners to self-identify the materials used in private service lines by taking our Know Your Pipes customer survey online at daytonohio.gov/KnowYourPipes. It has easy-to-follow instructions for how to identify your service line material type. You will be able to report your findings with steps provided if you discover lead or potential lead.

- **Will there be any impact to my private property?**

If we need to check your service line material during a field investigation, we will conduct a vacuum excavation. This involves a blast of water to loosen a small area of soil over the pipeline followed by a vacuum to remove the loosened soil. Once the vacuum excavation is complete, the soil will be replaced, and the pipe material information will be recorded.

For any questions about lead pipes:

Call us at (937) 333-3725. Our staff will provide information on water testing, safety tips and replacement options.