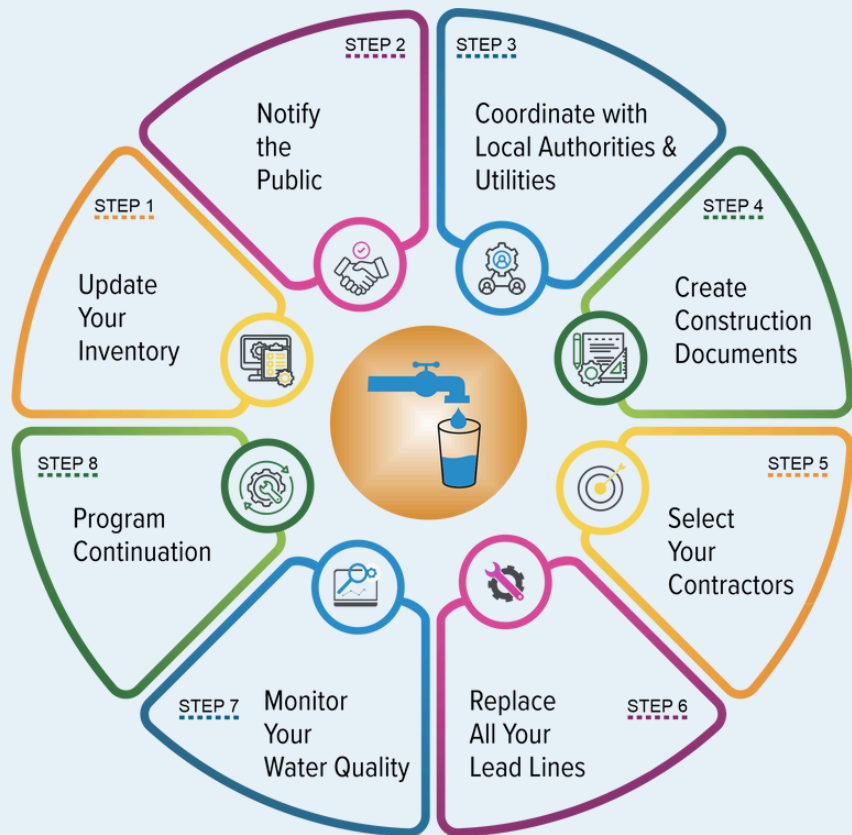


Are You Getting the Lead Out?



Steps to Protect the Public from Lead Service Lines

START WITH:
Needs Analysis and
Funding Your Program



Smart Infrastructure. Lead-Free Communities.

Replacing lead service lines (LSLs) is crucial for safeguarding public health. In New Jersey, all lead, galvanized, brass, and bronze service lines (or lead-compromised service lines) must be replaced by 2031. Here are the essential steps for replacing lead service lines:

Start Here: Needs Analysis and Funding Your Program

Before starting a lead service line replacement project, consider how to fund the program.

Options include:

- ✓ Rate Increases
- ✓ Cost Sharing
- ✓ Full Funding (Grants/principal forgiveness for disadvantaged communities)
- ✓ Loans

Note: Most programs utilize a combination of these funding sources, including the use of public funds on private property. Be sure to check the funding restrictions for each funding source. Watch this [video](#) to learn more about Technical Assistance for New Jersey Water Systems.



1. Update your Inventory



- Identify the locations of lead service lines within the water system.
- Assess the number of utility-owned and privately-owned lead service lines.
- Develop a comprehensive plan for the replacement, including a timeline, budget, and costs to the customer, if applicable.
- Plan to continue to identify unknowns while replacing known LSLs.



2. Notify the Public



- Inform residents and businesses served by lead lines about the upcoming replacement project.
- Educate the community about the potential health risks associated with lead exposure and the advantages of allowing contractors to replace lead service lines.
- Develop a Right of Entry or Replacement Agreement for work on private property.
- Discuss with the municipality leadership about the drafting of new ordinances to assist with the progress of the LSLRs and reduce EJ issues.



3. Coordinate with Local Authorities and Utilities



- Discuss the process for obtaining permits with local authorities for the replacement project.
- Verify with other utilities and agencies to ensure the replacement work is coordinated with infrastructure projects.
- Discuss with municipal leadership the drafting of new ordinances to assist the progress of LSLRs and reduce environmental justice issues.



4. Create Construction Documents



- Specify appropriate methods and materials associated with grant or loan requirements.
- Establish sequencing and prioritization, considering critical facilities like environmental justice communities, childcare centers, and schools.
- Coordinate with paving projects, utilities, and public works.
- Include bid specifications for replacement work developed by an experienced professional who understands the complications on the private side.
- Include all state, local, and funding requirements including town restoration requirements, Build America Buy America Act (BABAA), Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE), and workforce development and apprenticeship programs.



5. Select Your Contractors



- Procure a contractor or construction firm experienced in water system infrastructure projects.
- Ensure the contractor has the necessary certifications and expertise for safe and effective work.
- If not working with a contractor, develop and train utility staff on unique procedures for privately-owned service line replacement, overseen by a licensed plumber and, in some circumstances, a licensed electrician.



6. Replace all your lead lines (both public & private)



- Begin the replacement process, which typically involves excavating ground to access lead service lines with new, non-lead pipes.
- Take precautions to minimize disruptions and conduct service activities in the shortest time possible for affected properties to ensure public safety during construction.
- Document work, including pre-construction conditions, materials of old and new service lines, date of replacement, and restoration needs.
- Flush replaced lines before returning to service to remove any debris or contaminants that may have entered the system during construction.
- Provide education materials to the resident before returning to service, including health information about lead, flushing instructions, and water filter use (certified NSF-42/53).



7. Monitor Your Water Quality



- Develop a water quality monitoring process post-LSL replacement.
- Confirm flushing has been performed and has been effective at reducing lead.
- Offer the customer water sampling between 3–6 months after the replacement to evaluate their potential lead exposure risk.
- Select a lab to test post-LSL replacement water quality samples.



8. Program Continuation



- Continuous outreach to residents who have refused the utility's offer for replacement.
- Note any replaced lead service lines that were previously on the lead and copper rule sampling plan, and adjust sampling sites on your plan based on tier requirements for each sample.
- Continue routine sampling for lead and other water quality parameters.

By following these comprehensive steps, communities can effectively protect public health by eliminating toxic lead pipes from their water systems and ensuring ongoing water quality and maintenance measures are in place.

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