



Town of High River
309B Macleod Trail SW
High River, AB T1V 1Z5

For more information:
Town of High River Operations
403-652-4657

Join our Voluntary Water Sampling Program
Prevent Possible Lead Hazards in Drinking Water

Dear Homeowner,

As you may know, Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) and Environment Canada have shared new guidelines about possible lead hazards in drinking water. These guidelines require municipalities to assess lead hazards that may be caused by older underground pipes that carry water into homes. This letter is to let you know what we are doing and what you can expect as we work to implement the guidelines.

The Town has assessed the water source, and we would like to assure you that our water supply is safe. Based on records we want you to know that there are not many - if any - lead service lines in High River. We have confirmed that the system is not creating lead or sending Lead to the tap. *In most cases lead at the tap will be a result of lead pipes and older plumbing fixtures.*

The program begins in May 2020 and follows a four-year process

- Municipalities must develop management plans on behalf of residents
- The Town is going through records
- Any homes that have a recorded Lead Service Line will be notified by a direct letter

In order to properly test for lead and ensure public health, samples must be taken from within the home. Homeowners are invited to participate in a voluntary water sampling program beginning in May 2020

If you would like your home to be part of this program, or if you suspect lead in your water, please call the Town at 403-652-4657. An appointment will be made to have Town Staff come to your home and take a water sample.

- The points of sampling will be based on different factors such as: Age of area/sub-division, Town records, and age of pipes
- The samples will be analyzed at an accredited Laboratory. All sample results will be reported back to the homeowner as well as Alberta Environment
- As information will be reported back to AEP a FOIP consent form will have to be signed by the homeowner allowing us to share your water sample

Please see the attached Fact Sheet that will provide more information and answer some questions you may have about these new guidelines. Your health and safety are an important priority. We look forward to working with you as these guidelines are implemented.

March 2020

Town of High River answers your questions about the new, provincial Lead Management Guidelines:

What should I know to assess if I have lead pipes or Lead based plumbing fixtures?

- If your home was built prior to 1960 there is a potential for lead pipes or fixtures. The National Plumbing Code allowed the use of lead pipes until 1975 and tin-lead solder until 1986. Construction before 1960 has been used as a benchmark for use of lead as a service line material. However, poor construction practices may have resulted in installation of lead pipes after 1975 and in-fill construction may have used the existing Lead service lines instead of installing a non-lead service line.

What can I do if I suspect lead in my water?

- Run the tap before consuming. The best practice is to wait until you feel the water get colder. This is because lead is a substance that requires time to leech into the water. The longer water has been sitting stagnant in a pipe, the higher the risk. Flushing the line before consumption will help alleviate the lead.

- Consider purchasing a water filter. Many filters are available.
- The Town will be using Kaizen Laboratory Services in Calgary. If you wish to have an independent test, you may wish to contact Kaizen privately.

How do I check my home’s water line?

- Locate the water shutoff valve or water meter in your home.
- **Check the color** of the piping coming out of the ground and into the water meter. You may have to lightly sand the surface with a piece of sandpaper to expose the metal of the pipe.
 - Copper (the color of a Canadian penny): it is likely copper.
 - Bluish green or black: it is likely plastic.
 - Dark grey: its likely galvanized iron, or Lead
- **Check the hardness** of the pipe
 - If you think it could be lead, try etching gentle into the pipe. Lead is a relatively soft metal and scratches very easily.
 - To avoid damage, don’t attempt gently etching if you think the pipe could be plastic.

Other Resources:

<p>A video on the EPCOR website provides more detailed instructions on how to check your service for lead.</p> <p>You can find this video at EPCOR.com/lead</p>		<p>Check the portion of pipe indicated by the green arrow.</p>
<p>The Health Canada website provides information on how to reduce exposure to lead from drinking water. You can find this information on their website (link is provided below).</p> <p>Summary of Health Canada’s website is provided here for your convenience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flush out your pipes before consuming the water • Has water been sitting in your pipes for several hours? If so, run the tap until it’s cold (about one minute) before drinking or cooking with the water from that tap • Only use cold tap water for drinking or cooking, since hot water increases the leaching of lead and other metals from your plumbing • Clean your taps monthly • Every month, inspect the aerators or screens at the tap • If you find debris, clean it out – this will remove any particles that may contain lead, and inspect more frequently • If you do not find debris, continue to inspect monthly • Brass faucets and valves can contain some lead – replace these with fittings that are certified to the standard on low lead content • A household water filter at the tap can effectively remove lead from your water (this is recommended as a temporary solution only). The filter must be installed and maintained properly, or it could become ineffective • Test your water for lead before installation and during use to confirm the filter is working • Make sure that any device you purchase is certified to the NSF International standard for removal of lead 		
<p>Additional Information Links:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://myhealth.alberta.ca/Alberta/Pages/Common-questions-about-lead-and-drinking-water.aspx • https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/environmental-workplace-health/reports-publications/water-quality/what-about-lead.html 	

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