ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

MN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/lead

Drinking Water Protection Program
health.drinkingwater@state.mn.us

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
www.epa.gov/lead

Safe Drinking Water Hotline
1-800-426-4791

National Lead Information Center
1-800-424-5323

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To learn more about RPU's dedication to water quality please visit:

www.rpu.org/education-environment/waterquality

LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

4000 East River Road NE
Rochester, MN 55906-2813
www.rpu.org

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QUICK FACTS

- Rochester's source water is lead-free. Rochester's water comes from groundwater, the main source being the Jordan aquifer. Lead is picked up later in household pipes and fixtures.
- Lead does not have a color, odor, or taste and has been linked to impaired physical and mental development, hearing problems, and damage to the brain, nervous system, red blood cells, and kidneys. Lead presents health concerns for people of all ages, particularly pregnant women, infants and young children.
- RPU has never exceeded the Lead Action Level since it was initiated in 1990 under the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).
- Homes built before 1950 may have lead service lines that connect them to public water supply. Plumbing systems built before 1986 may have lead soldered joint or leaded fixtures.
- Service lines connect homes to the water main and are owned by the customer. (see Figure 1).
- RPU provides corrosion control treatment with a blended polyphosphate, per MN Department of Health standards, to reduce the amount of lead and other substances that could get picked up by the water while flowing through the pipes.
- In 2014, Congress implemented the Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act, revising the definition of 'lead-free' by lowering the maximum lead content in plumbing fixture and materials from 8% to a weighted average of 0.25%.

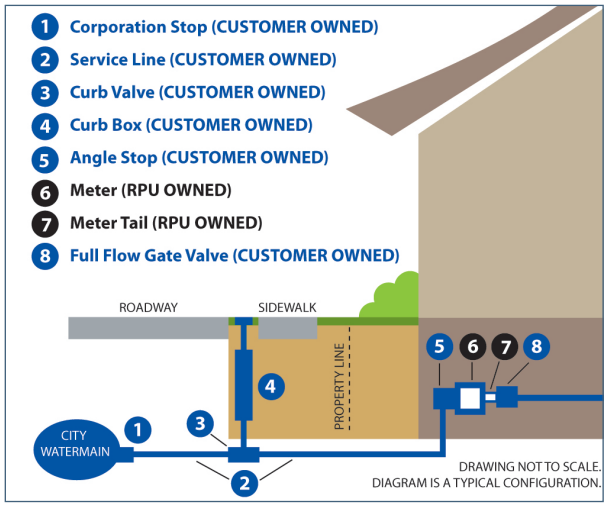
Where Water Meets Lead

RPU has consistently followed the EPA's SWDA, and has never exceeded the allowed amount of lead in the water source. The water is tested by the Minnesota Department of Health and the findings are made available annually in the Water Quality Report, which can be found at www.rpu.org.

However, there is growing awareness that some homes have lead in water pipes, fixtures and plumbing. Other sources of lead are:

- **Soldering:** a process used to join pipes together, which often used lead. It was governmentally regulated in 1986 to reduce the amount of lead used in solder.
- **Brass and chrome fittings:** also used to join pipes. Fittings could contain a high amount of lead if made before 2014, or if made outside of the United States.
- Any number of **other home plumbing fixtures** used throughout the water lines in the home if older than 2014.

Figure 1



Is Lead In Your Plumbing?

Homes built before 1950 are at higher risk for lead pipes, but any home built after 1950 is still at risk.

- Get your water tested to know exactly how much lead is in your water. Contact the Southeastern Minnesota Water Analysis Laboratory at (507) 328-7495 or www.co.olmsted.mn.us/waterlab for additional information.

- Run taps with cold water for at least 60 seconds before using the water for cooking or drinking, longer if you have lead service lines. Boiling water does not reduce the amount of lead. For more information, check out the Minnesota Department of Health's *Let It Run* program on their website, listed under "ADDITIONAL RESOURCES" in this brochure.
- Do not use hot water for cooking or drinking. It releases more lead into the pipes than cold water.
- Some home water filters are effective at reducing lead. If you purchase a filter, make sure it is NSF certified for lead removal and that you maintain it properly. Find out more on filter certification at www.nsf.org.