The City of Somerville (City) is launching a Lead Service Line Replacement Program (Program) to help improve its local water infrastructure. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has issued non-mandatory guidelines recommending that municipalities, whenever possible, remove lead and other non-copper services from their water systems. This program allows residents to fully replace their non-copper water services from the city water main (street) to the water meter (basement), at no charge to the property owner.

Through the help of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's (MWRA) Lead Loan Program, Somerville has received a portion of the $100 million in state funding distributed to 45 eligible communities. This financial assistance program moves the City towards achieving its goal of eliminating lead and other non-copper pipes from its water infrastructure. The program begins in 2020 and the City is anticipating that the program will be phased over several years.

If your water service is known to be made of lead, here are some steps you can take to protect yourself against lead exposure.

1. Run the faucet for 30 seconds before using water from the tap.
2. Never use hot water from the faucet for drinking or cooking.
3. If the material of your service line is unknown, have it inspected.

Questions on the Program? Call 617-625-6600 Ext. 5400

Contact Us:
Somerville Engineering
617-625-6600 ext. 5400

LeadServices@SomervilleMA.gov

1 Franey Road
Somerville, MA 02145

SomervilleMA.gov/LeadServices
The goal of the Program is to eliminate all non-copper services from the water distribution system. Non-copper services may be made of lead or other older materials like iron that can corrode, leak, or fail over time.

Through this program, non-copper piping will be replaced with copper piping from the city water main (street) to the water meter (basement) at eligible properties. The City will coordinate with owners to obtain private property access to complete this work. This program will be completed in phases over several years.

Who is eligible?
All properties with non-copper water services are eligible for the Lead Service Line Replacement Program. Properties for Phase 1 have been identified by the Somerville Engineering Department and can be found by calling the city (see right). Future phases will follow. The City reserves the right to determine if a property is not eligible for this replacement program.

What will be replaced?
The City’s contractor will remove and replace the existing non-copper water service from the water main in the street to the water meter inside your basement (see left image). Service replacement work will be either trenchless or open excavation work, depending on the location and condition of your piping, and is estimated to take about one day to complete. All disturbed surfaces will be restored to their original condition.

How much will this cost?
The replacement and associated restoration costs will be paid for by the City as a part of this program. The estimated costs to replace a water service vary between $2,000 and $6,000.

First, visit the Program webpage at SomervilleMA.gov/LeadServices, or call 617-625-6600 Ext. 5400 to learn if your residence is eligible for the Program. Residences listed with water services known to be copper do NOT require replacement.

If you have a lead or non-copper service, submit an application online or call 617-625-6600 Ext. 5400 to participate. A staff member will contact you after receiving your application to coordinate next steps.

Find Your Residence
Visit SomervilleMA.gov/LeadServices or call 617-625-6600 Ext. 5400 to determine if your residence is eligible for free pipe replacement through this program.