

PWS

Name: ATKINS MUNICIPAL WATER WORKS PWSID#: IA 0603072 Date: 11/07/2024

Notice of unknown service line material

Atkins Municipal Water Works is focused on protecting the health of every household in our community. This notice contains important information about your drinking water. Please share this information with anyone who drinks and/or cooks using water at this property. In addition to people directly served at this property, this can include people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, businesses, as well as parents served by childcare at this property.

Atkins Municipal Water Works is working to identify service line materials throughout the water system and has determined that the water pipe (called a service line) that connects your home, building, or other structure to the water main is made from **unknown material** but may be lead. Because your service line material is unknown, there is the potential that some or all of the service line could be made of lead or galvanized pipe that was previously connected to lead. People living in homes with a lead or galvanized pipe previously connected to a lead service line have an increased risk of exposure to lead from their drinking water.

Identifying service line material

The EPA/DNR requires that the City of Atkins annually notify all consumers with unknown service lines until such time the service line material has been identified. Your service line is labeled **unknown** due to its date of construction. Once your service line material has been identified and inventoried with the City, you will either be removed from the notice list or be advised of other options. If you do have a lead service line, there could be financial assistance available for replacement in the future.

To help determine or report the material of your service line, please refer to the EPA Web link below, submit a completed survey at the www.cityofatkins.org website, or contact the City of Atkins Water Department at 319-446-7870, or by emailing at cityclerk@cityofatkins.org. EPA has developed an online step-by-step guide to help people identify lead pipes in their homes called Protect Your Tap: A Quick Check for Lead. It is available at: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/protect-your-tap-quick-check-lead>.

Health effects of lead

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or worsen existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these negative health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, and kidney, or nervous system problems.

Steps you can take to reduce lead in drinking water.

Below are recommended actions that you may take, separately or in combination, if you are concerned about lead in your drinking water. The list also includes where you may find more information and is not intended to be a complete list or to imply that all actions equally reduce lead in drinking water.

Use your filter properly. Using a filter can reduce lead in drinking water. If you use a filter, it should be certified to remove lead. Read any directions provided with the filter to learn how to properly install, maintain, and use your cartridge and when to replace it. Using the cartridge after it has expired can make it less effective at removing lead. Do not run hot water through the filter. For more information on facts and advice on home water filtration systems, visit EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/consumer-tool-identifying-point-use-and-pitcher-filters-certified-reduce-lead>.

Clean your aerator. Regularly remove and clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator). Sediment, debris, and lead particles can collect in your aerator. If lead particles are caught in the aerator, lead can get into your water.

Use cold water. Do not use hot water from the tap for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula as lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Boiling water does not remove lead from water.

Run your water. The more time water has been sitting in pipes providing water to your home, the more lead it may contain. Before drinking, flush your home's pipes by running the tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or doing a load of dishes. The amount of time to run the water will depend on whether your home has a lead service line or not, as well as the length and diameter of the service line and the amount of plumbing in your home.

Learn about construction in your neighborhood. Contact us at 319-446-7870 or at cityclerk@cityofatkins.org to find out about any construction or maintenance work that could disturb your service line. Construction may cause more lead to be released from a lead service line or galvanized service line if present.

Have your water tested. Contact a certified laboratory to have your water tested for lead. Note, a water sample may not adequately capture or represent all sources of lead that may be present. For information on sources of lead that include service lines and interior plumbing, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water#getinto>.

Financing solutions to assist property owners with replacement of lead service lines may become available from non-profits and governmental agencies in the future and you are encouraged to seek opportunities for this type of assistance if needed.

For more information on reducing lead exposure from your drinking water and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/lead>.

Contact the Iowa Department of Public Health. Contact your county or state health department if you have concerns about health effects caused by lead.