



# Get the Lead Out! Open House

February 2, 2023

# Introductions



## NPU Staff:



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## Presenters & Facilitators:



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Program Director



**Hannah Rockwell,  
PE**  
Program Manager



**Kate Edwards, PE**  
Public Outreach  
Coordinator



**Nickie Mitch**  
Public Engagement  
Facilitator

# What is lead?



- A natural and useful metal
- Silvery with a bluish tint, but becomes a darker gray after exposure to air.

## Pipes and Containers

Lead can be pounded, stretched and melted into many shapes.



*Ancient Roman Lead Water Pipe*

## Paint

Lead was used in indoor and outdoor paints until 1978 because it helped paint dry faster, look better and last longer.

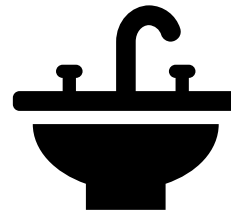


# Where is lead?

**IF YOUR HOME WAS  
BUILT BEFORE 1978,  
ASSUME THERE'S LEAD**

**Don't know the age of your home?**

- Check your lease
- Ask your landlord
- Check online real estate database



# Lead in drinking water:

- Lead pipes are mostly found in houses built before 1986.
- Old pipes and plumbing connections / fixtures may also be made of lead.

## Tips to Consider:

- Run water for at least 30 seconds before drinking or using for cooking
- Use cold water for drinking and food preparation
- Run water for 1-3 minutes before using for baby formula



# Top 5 things you can do to keep your family safe from lead

1

**Know the age of your house or apartment.**

Was it built before 1978? If so, assume lead is there.

2

**Talk to your pediatrician.**

Make sure your kids are tested and know what the results were.

3

**Clean away dust and paint chips** from spaces where kids play and sleep.

4

**Run the water.**

*\*30 seconds before drinking*

*\*1-3 minutes before making baby formula*

5

**Wash hands regularly and keep shoes at the door.**



UHD serves as the local health department for eleven municipalities in Eastern Connecticut: Bozrah, Franklin, Griswold, Lebanon, Lisbon, Montville, Norwich, Preston, Salem, Sprague, and Voluntown.

The agency's mission is to promote and protect the public's health in order to prevent illness, death and disability among its residents.

***Mobile Health Van Outside Tonight!***



**Susan Dubb**

Public Health Nurse

# EPA Lead and Copper Rule Revisions Requirements



## CORROSION CONTROL

Maintain optimized corrosion control treatment (CCT). Study treatment options and implement further optimization if triggered.

## PITCHER FILTERS

Provide additional protection of at-risk customers in response to lead sample results >5 ppb or major service line disturbances.

## TIER 1 SAMPLING

Register and routinely monitor LSL Tier 1 sample sites, monitor WQ parameters CCT, certify customer notifications and 90P calculations for compliance determination.

## SCHOOLS & DAYCARES

Monitor 20% of all elementary schools and registered childcare facilities each year, coordinate with facilities on sampling plans.



## OUTREACH & EDUCATION

## SERVICE LINE (SL) INVENTORY

Manage internal and public-facing GIS records and tools, publish yearly inventory updates, and support program areas with mapping and spatial analyses.

## SL IDENTIFICATION

Reduce the total number of both city and customer unknowns through routine field work, inspections, and capital projects.

## SL INVESTIGATION

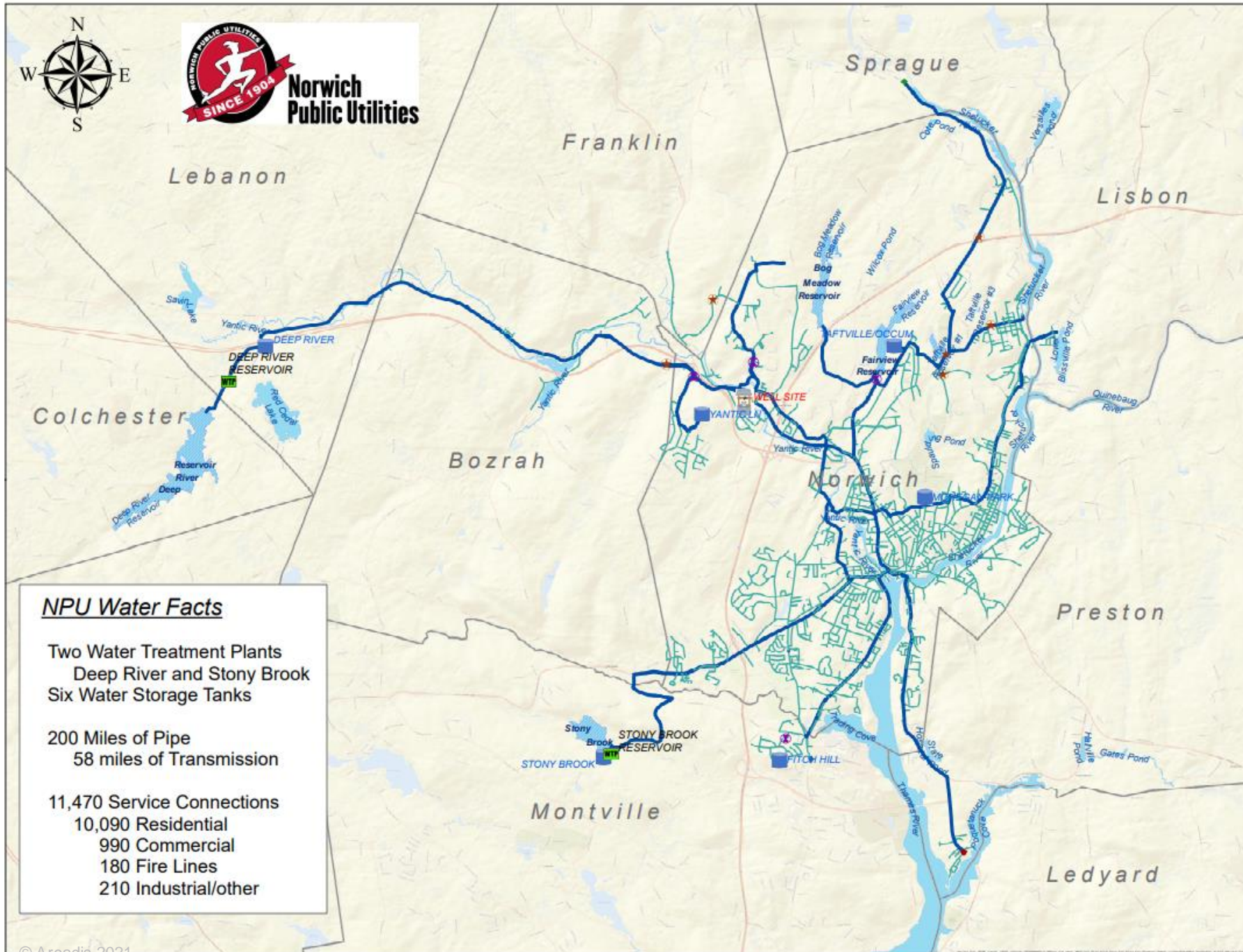
Find & Fix field investigations of service line materials to identify and remove potential sources of lead. Triggered by sample results.

## SL REPLACEMENT

Prioritize and carry out the replacement of private lead and galvanized service lines to reduce lead risks to our customers.



# Norwich Public Utilities System Facts



# What Is A Service Line?

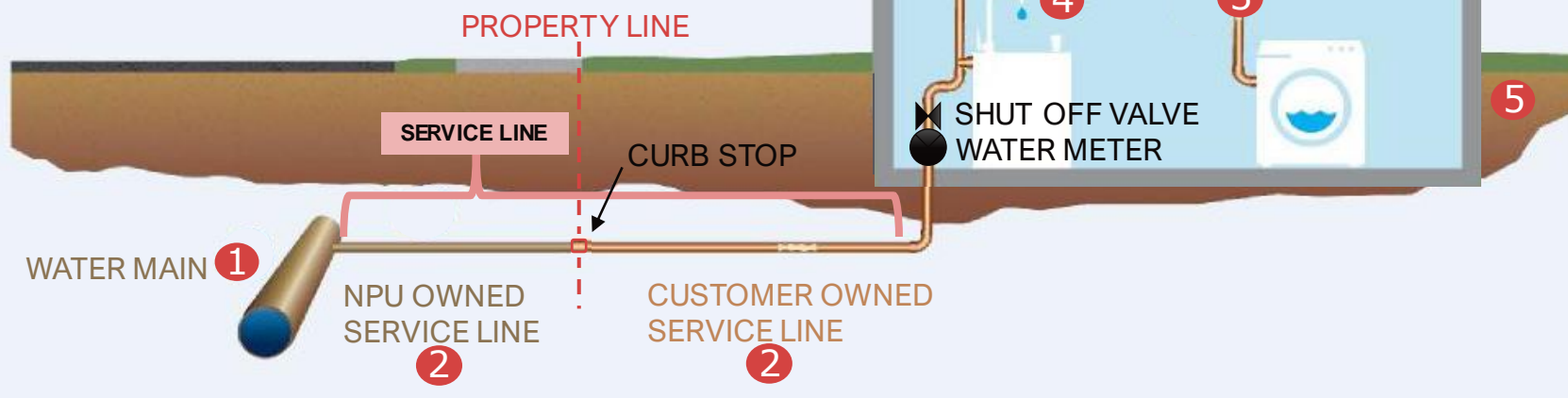
① Norwich Public Utilities (NPU) provides a source of drinking water that is routinely tested to verify it is safe. Additionally, NPU water mains are not made of lead.

② The service line consists of a portion owned by the customer and portion owned by NPU. Either portion could be made of lead, which could affect water quality inside a home.

③ Homes may contain lead piping and lead solder, which can affect drinking water quality.

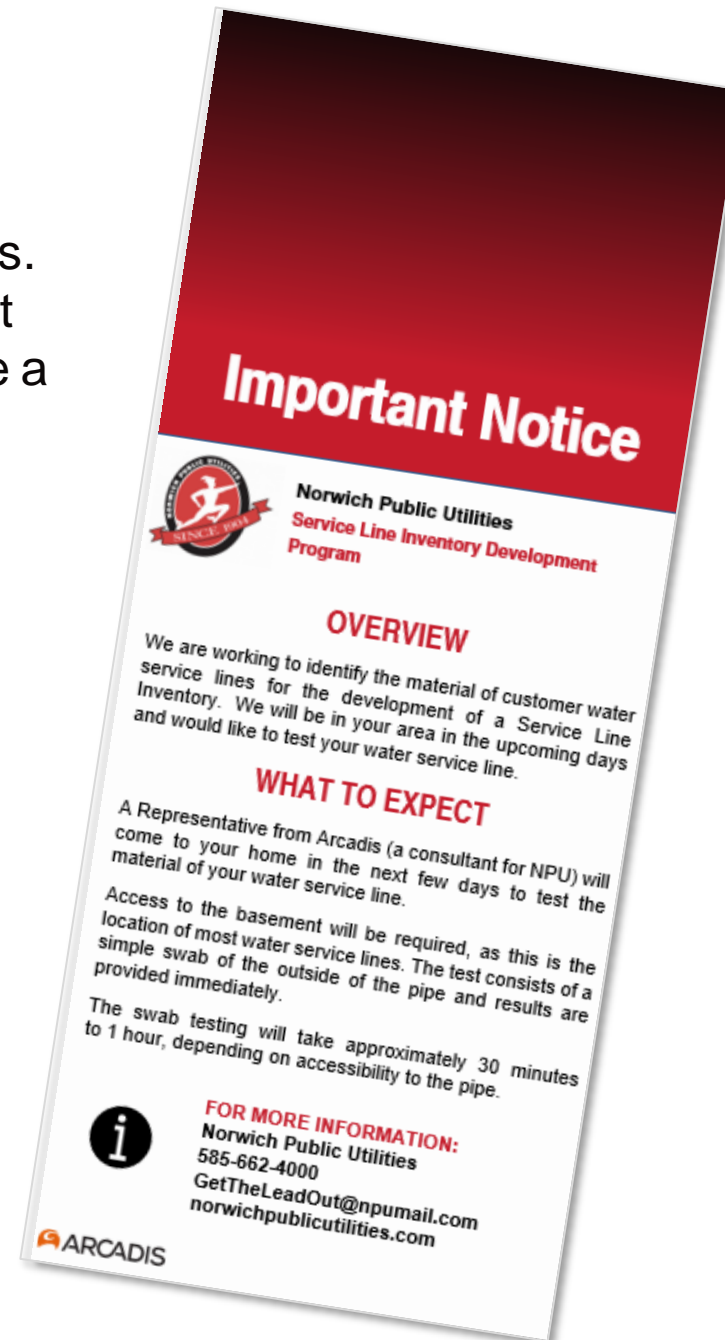
④ Drinking water quality may be affected at the point of use if your plumbing fixtures and faucets contain lead.

⑤ Other potential sources of lead in a home include lead-based paint, dust, soil, jewelry, and some plastics.



# Identifying LSLs

The Service Line Inventory Program includes continuous efforts to identify Lead Service Lines. You may be asked to participate in an important LSL identification survey. Testing programs are a quick but important step in LSL Identification.



# Upcoming: Swab Testing of Service Lines

NPU has created an initial inventory of lead service pipes based on construction records, but those records are not perfect. To improve our inventory, 150 homes within the NPU service area will be selected for In-Home Verification (Swab Testing). This includes:

- A physical inspection of the home's service line to determine existing material. The service line will be "swabbed" and the results will be immediately known (presence of lead or not).
- Access to the service line pipe inside the home (often in the basement) will be required for a swab test. The space must be clear and the pipe must be exposed to complete the test.
- Homeowners will be notified via door hanger ahead of time if their home was selected.
- This test takes approximately 15 minutes.



# In Home Verification Field Staff



Sample Badges



# Test at Home & Report your own lead service line....

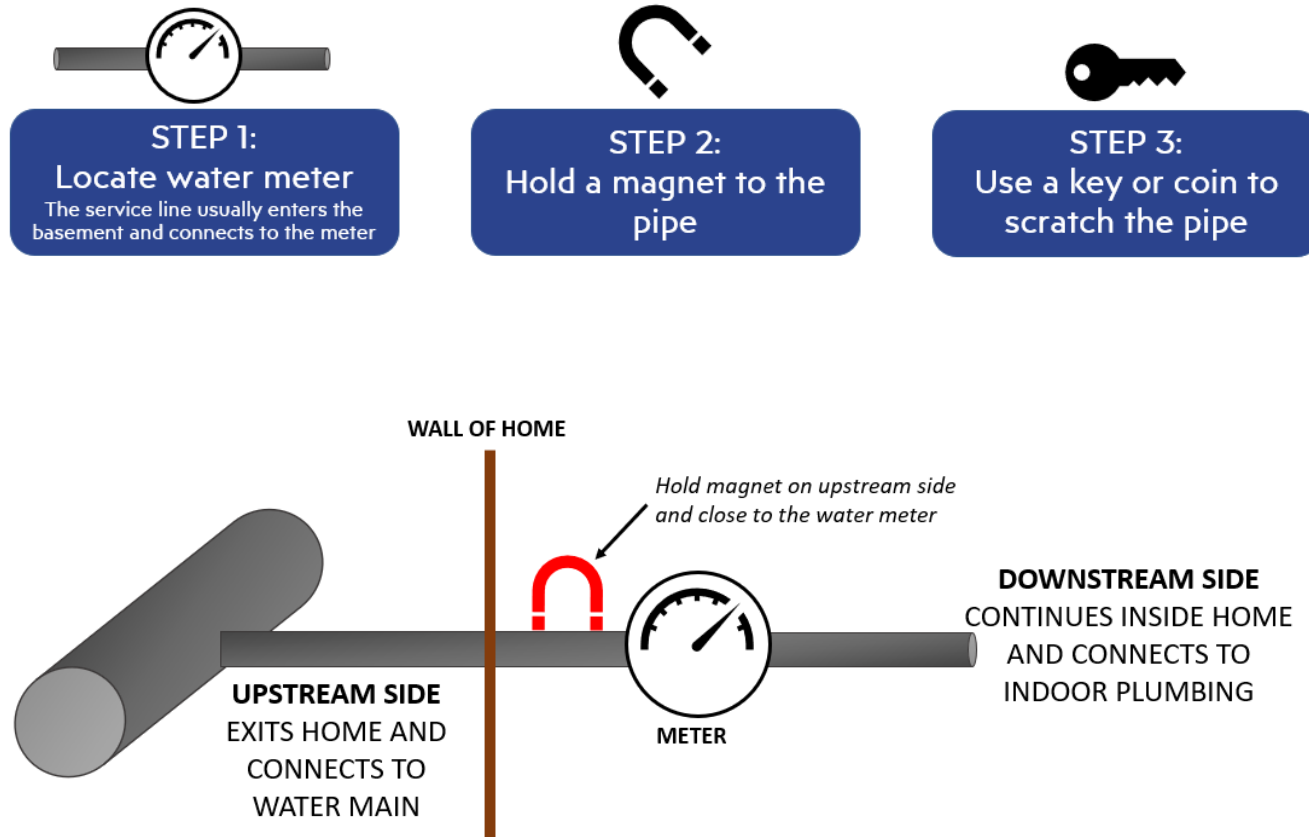
- Testing can also be done using the EPA-approved 3M Leadcheck Swab at-home test.
  - Available for purchase at Home Depot, Lowes, Ace Hardware, Amazon, local hardware stores, etc.
- Report your results to [GetTheLeadOut@NPUMail.com](mailto:GetTheLeadOut@NPUMail.com)

1. **CLEAN.** Clean the service line with a scotch pad or wet cloth to remove any dirt or dust that may have accumulated.
2. **CRUSH.** Squeeze and crush points marked “A” and “B” located on the barrel of the Swab.
3. **SHAKE AND SQUEEZE.** With the Swab tip facing down, shake twice and squeeze gently until the yellow liquid comes to the top of the Swab – the Swab is now activated for testing.
4. **RUB.** While Squeezing gently run the Swab on the test area for 30 seconds. *Note, refer to next slide for test area. Test area shall be on upstream side of meter and as close to the meter as possible. If the tip turns red or pink, lead is present.*




# Magnet & Penny Test

Identification of the type of material used for service lines and in home plumbing can be done using a magnet and a penny. Some new homes may have plastic plumbing which is often cream-colored or white.




**LEAD**

- ⤿ Not magnetic
- 🔑 Silver-gray and shiny in color when scratched




**GALVANIZED STEEL**

- ⤿ Magnetic
- 🔑 Silver-gray in color when scratched




**PLASTIC/PVC**

- ⤿ Not magnetic
- 🔑 Typically white in color



**COPPER**

- Not Magnetic
- Shiny and orange like a copper penny when scratched



# Resources Available to You

**Please use these resources for more information:**

- **For Program Questions:**

Phone: 860-887-2555

Email: [GetTheLeadOut@NPUMail.com](mailto:GetTheLeadOut@NPUMail.com)

- **Norwich Public Utilities website** with more information on drinking water: <https://norwichpublicutilities.com/>
- **Connecticut Department of Public Health** information on lead: <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Drinking-Water/DWS/Lead-and-Copper-Rule>
- Resources to understand and reduce lead exposure from the **United States Environmental Protection Agency**: [epa.gov/lead](https://epa.gov/lead)
- **National Lead Hotline**: Contact the National Lead Information Center's hotline at 1 (800) 424-LEAD [5323]

# Contact Us



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Program Director



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Program Manager



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Public Outreach Coordinator



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Public Engagement Facilitator



## **Norwich Public Utilities:**

860-887-2555 or

*GetTheLeadOut@NPUMail.com*