



Public Works & Public Health Services

71 Main St W
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5
905-546-CITY (2489)

Dear Homeowner/Occupant,

The City of Hamilton would like to inform you that your street has been identified for potential road resurfacing in the near future, pending other project priorities and budget availability. One of the reasons for letting you know of this potential work is to provide you with an opportunity to coordinate any work that would require a road cut prior to any planned repaving. Voluntary works initiated by residents, such as repairs or upgrades to your property's water or sewer lines, require a road cut. Road cuts ruin the look of new pavement, reduce the lifespan of new roads and cause a bumpy ride for drivers, transit riders, cyclists, etc.

We recognize that keeping our streets in good condition is a priority for our residents and limiting the amount of avoidable road cuts to newly paved roads is a way to do so.



Road cut example

Why would you want to repair or upgrade your water or sewer line?

- **Do you have a lead water line?** Was your home built before 1955? Within this package is more information from Public Health about Lead Water Service Lines and the health implications of lead. Loans are available for eligible homeowners through the City's Lead Pipe Service Replacement Program. Visit www.hamilton.ca/LeadPipes for more information.
- **Do you have poor water pressure?** You could have an undersized water service. Do you want to upgrade your undersized water service line? Visit www.hamilton.ca/PoorWaterPressure for more information.
- **Do you have a slow draining sewer line?** Have you had a sewer back-up and not had your sewer investigated? For more information about your sewer lateral and the Sewer Lateral Management Program, please visit www.hamilton.ca/SLMP

Residential water and sewer upgrade construction works can take months to initiate, permit, execute and inspect. We are sending this information to you now so that you have time to consider your needs, obtain quotes to assess costs and schedule work now. Both the homeowner portion and the City portion of work can take several months to complete.

If you have any questions regarding your water or sewer line, the planned road construction or health concerns relating to lead, please call 905-546-CITY (2489) and your call will be directed to the appropriate staff.

Sincerely,

**City of Hamilton,
Public Works & Public Health Services Departments**



Hamilton

Replacing lead water service pipes is an investment in your health and home.

IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD WATER SERVICE PIPES

If your home was built prior to 1955, you may have a lead water service pipe.

What is Lead?

Lead is a highly toxic metal that can cause very serious health effects. Prior to 1955, it was typical for builders to use lead water service pipes in service lines connecting water mains to homes. Changes to the Plumbing Code banned the use of lead water service pipes because of the harmful health effects it could cause, and copper pipes for water service lines became the new standard.

Lead in Your Drinking Water

The drinking water that comes from Hamilton's water distribution system has been treated and tested to make sure levels of lead in the water meets the Ontario Drinking Water Standards. That being said, many homes within the City still have lead water service pipes and there are steps that can be taken to protect the health and safety of your family.



Is Your Water Service Pipe Made of Lead?

Find where the water pipe comes into the home and to your water meter. Does the pipe have a dull grey appearance? Is it a soft metal that scratches easily? If so, it is likely a lead water service pipe. If you are unsure if you have a lead water service pipe, you can request a free inspection from Hamilton Water by calling 905-546-CITY (2489) and asking for a 'Check Size and Type Inspection'.

What to Do if Your Water Service Pipe is Made of Lead

Children under 7 years old, pregnant women, or women planning a pregnancy are at most risk to health effects from exposure to lead. This group should use bottled water or tap water using a water filter capable of removing lead such as an NSF-053 filter for drinking, making foods, juice, coffee, tea or baby formula.

There is no known safe blood lead level in children. Efforts should be made to reduce lead exposure for children whenever possible. Contact your family doctor if you are concerned about your child's lead exposure.

Most Vulnerable

People who are at higher risk of health effects from lead are:

- Children under 7 years old
- Pregnant Women
- Women planning a pregnancy



Lead exposure in children can lead to poor performance in school and behavioural problems.

Long-term exposure can cause damage to the kidneys and nervous system, attention deficit disorder and decreased intelligence.

Boiling Tap Water Will **NOT** Remove Lead

Boiled water should not be used in food preparation as it will concentrate the lead levels in water. Regular tap water is safe for bathing, showering, brushing teeth, washing dishes and to wash clothes.

Steps to Reduce Lead in Your Tap Water:

Children 7 years of age or older and adults can use tap water for drinking and cooking, but must follow the steps below before using it to drink or prepare food/juices etc.

1. FLUSH

Flush your water pipes each morning or any time that your water has not been used for a period of 6 hours or longer. Do this by going to the lowest tap farthest from where your water enters the house (where your water meter is located) and run the water for at least 15 minutes. When done, flush all other taps for 5 minutes. This will remove any loose lead particles sitting in your pipes.

2. REMOVE & RINSE

Remove and rinse out all tap aerators after flushing. This will remove any lead particles that may have become trapped.

3. USE AN ALTERNATE WATER SUPPLY OR FILTER

Use filtered or bottled water if you are pregnant, planning a pregnancy or have children under 7 years of age living in the house. We strongly recommend you install an NSF-053 certified filter for lead reduction.

The best way to permanently reduce lead in your tap water is to replace your lead water service pipe.

Need More Information?

For more information on how to identify lead water service pipes, lead replacement and loan opportunities, please call **905-546-CITY (2489)** or visit www.hamilton.ca/LeadPipes.

Questions about your health can be directed to Public Health Services at:

905-546-2189 or visit www.hamilton.ca/SafeWater



Filters

Lead reduction filters are approved by the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF). An approved lead reduction filter has "NSF/ANSI-53 for lead removal" or "NSF-53 Standard" on the label with the NSF logo. If unsure, call NSF at 1-800-673-6275 with questions regarding lead filters.

Other Sources of Lead

Lead can also be found in paint in homes built before 1978, toys, children's jewelry, clay pottery and soils. For more information on how to protect your family from environmental sources of lead visit www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/home-garden-safety/reduce-your-exposure-lead.html