

# FAQs

**Q: How do I know if my house has a lead service line?**

A: The Village of North Aurora has partnered with consulting engineer EEI to develop a survey. This survey can be found on this website or following this link: <https://arcg.is/PuW4m>

**Q: If I have a private lead service line, is it also possible that I have lead plumbing in my house?**

A: Interior pipes typically are not fabricated from lead, however, many older fixtures, pipe fittings, valves and solder may contain lead. In at least one study, galvanized (zinc-coated) pipes were found to be a significant long-term source of lead in water.

**Q: Why is my service line made of lead?**

A: Prior to 1965, standard practice was to use lead pipe for service lines. While many water service lines post-1965 were installed with copper piping, regulations still allowed the installation of lead service lines up to the mid-1980s.

**Q: How does lead get into drinking water?**

A: Chemically stable water, or water that contains additives to coat pipes and fixtures, can resist lead leaching into the water. Lead gets into drinking water when the protective coating that is inside of water system pipes or fixtures is disturbed – either chemically or physically. Lead can also get into drinking water from corrosion of lead containing pipes or fixtures.

**Q: Where does the Village of North Aurora get its water?**

A: All of the Village's water comes from deep wells. The water source is treated at the Village's two water treatment plants, and then the treated water is distributed to consumers through the Village's water distribution system.

**Q: Does the Village of North Aurora test for lead?**

A: The Village of North Aurora is required by federal law to test for lead at 30 sample sites throughout the community every six months.

**Q: Does the Village implement any other water safety measures?**

A: The Village's water is continuously monitored throughout the treatment process to ensure that it meets all federal and state requirements for safe drinking water.

**Q: What regulations are currently in place (Federal, State, etc)? Is North Aurora following the law?**

A: There are many state and federal regulations that apply to drinking water quality. The specific regulation that applies to lead in drinking water is the Lead and Copper Rule. The Village of North Aurora follows all Federal and State regulations related to the Lead and Copper Rule.

**Q: How susceptible is the Village of North Aurora to a public health crisis like what happened in Flint, Michigan?**

A: One of the main causes of the Flint, Michigan crisis was the sudden change in source water and then insufficient water quality monitoring. The Village of North Aurora has been treating the same water source for decades, and has no current plans to change our water source. The Village of North Aurora has multiple water quality monitoring processes in place to avert a public health crisis.

**Q: What would be the most likely source of lead in my home’s water?**

A: Homes constructed before 1986 are more likely to have lead containing brass fixtures, lead fittings, lead solder and lead service lines. In at least one study, galvanized (zinc-coated) pipes were found to be a significant long-term source of lead in water.

**Q: What does the Village do to ensure its water is safe?**

A: The Village continuously monitors the quality of the water exiting the water treatment plants, and water distribution system. In addition, the Village monitors the lead and copper content within 30 sample sites throughout the community every six months.

**Q: Who pays for replacement of service lines?**

A: The Village is currently building an inventory of properties with confirmed lead service lines in order to design a lead service line replacement program. Following the completion of the inventory, the Village will determine the costs of the replacement project and what financial resources the Village may be able to contribute.

**Q: Should I test my drinking water for lead?**

A: The Village recommends determining whether you have a lead or galvanized steel water service line prior to testing your water for lead. Regardless of what type of service line, should you choose to have your water tested, you can find an accredited laboratory near you on the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency’s website. Laboratories will send you bottles for sample collection. **Please note that the Village is not affiliated with these laboratories, and they will charge you a fee.** The IEPA web site is: <https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/certification-training/lab-accreditation/Pages/accredited-labs.aspx>

The list below was developed searching the IEPA web site for laboratories in Illinois accepting commercial samples. Please ask for associated fees you will be charged/responsible for. The results of the search appear in the list below:

<b>No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>
1	AbbVie Environmental, Health and Safety Laboratory	Abbot Park	IL
2	American Water Central Laboratory	Belleville	IL
3	ARDL, Inc.	Mt. Vernon	IL
4	Culligan Analytical Laboratory	Rosemont	IL
5	Environmental Monitoring and Technologies, Inc.	Des Plaines	IL
6	Eurofins Chicago	University Park	IL

7	First Environmental Laboratories, Inc.	Naperville	IL
8	Gabriel Laboratories, Ltd.	Chicago	IL
9	Grace Analytical Lab, Inc.	Berkeley	IL
10	Pace Analytical Services, LLC – McHenry, Illinois	McHenry	IL
11	Pace Peoria**	Peoria	IL
12	Scientific Control Laboratory, Inc.	Chicago	IL
13	STAT Analysis Corporation	Chicago	IL
14	Suburban Laboratories	Geneva	IL
15	Teklab, Incorporated	Collinsville	IL
16	Test, Inc.	Peru	IL
17	Will County Health Dept. - Environ. Health Lab.	Joliet	IL
**	Laboratory Village Currently Uses		

**Q: What are the health effects of lead in drinking water?**

A: Documented health effects of elevated concentrations of lead in drinking water within children include: behavior and learning problems, lower IQ, hyperactivity, slowed growth, hearing problems and anemia.

Documented health effects of elevated concentrations of lead in drinking water within pregnant women include reduced fetus growth and premature birth. Adults exposed to lead can have cardiovascular effects, decreased kidney function and reproductive problems.

**Q: What measures can I take to reduce lead in drinking water at home?**

A: Running your water on COLD for five minutes before using the water for cooking or drinking can reduce the lead levels within the water. In addition to daily flushing, there are many commercially available filters that are NSF certified to remove lead. The IDPH and the IL LSLRN Act specify NSF 53 and NSF 42 as the certifications to remove lead in point of use filters.

The EPA also published a fact sheet for filter certifications that can be accessed through the following link: [https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2018-12/documents/consumer\\_tool\\_for\\_identifying\\_drinking\\_water\\_filters\\_certified\\_to\\_reduce\\_lead.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2018-12/documents/consumer_tool_for_identifying_drinking_water_filters_certified_to_reduce_lead.pdf)

**Q: Where can I find more information?**

A: <https://www.lslr-collaborative.org/intro-to-lsl-replacement.html>