

# LEAVE LEAD OUT OF YOUR TAP WATER

When water leaves our treatment works, it's lead free. But lead can end up in your tap water if it's left standing in old lead pipework around your home.

This factsheet tells you how to check for lead, and what to do if you find it.

STOP

## QUICK CHECK LIST

- I think I may have lead pipework in my property or underground
- My house was built before 1970
- My pipework is dull grey or black, or has a swollen joint
- I am worried about the health risks of lead in drinking water
- There is a pregnant lady or young children drinking the water in the property





## HOW DOES LEAD GET INTO MY TAP WATER?

Your drinking water can pick up lead from the pipework leading from the water main, underground into your property, or from lead pipe work inside your property.



## WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT LEAD?

Anglian Water are acting to reduce the amount of lead which can dissolve in the water in line with new EU limits of lead in drinking water.

We're replacing a number of lead pipes across our region, and installing additional equipment at some of our water treatment works.

We're also working with housing associations, local authorities, health professionals and householders to raise awareness and encourage replacement of customers lead pipework.

## LEAD AND YOUR HEALTH

The latest medical advice suggests that lead is most harmful if excessive levels are allowed to build up in the body.

It makes sense then to ensure we consume as little lead as possible – especially in the case of pregnant women and young children.



## LOOK OUT FOR LEAD PIPES

Lead has been used for plumbing since Roman times. If you live in a house built before 1970, chances are you may have lead pipework.





It just takes a few minutes to check:

1. Find the point where the water pipe enters your property – it's usually at the internal stop tap, so take a look under your kitchen sink.
2. Unpainted lead pipes will appear dark grey or black in colour and the joint will appear swollen.
3. The metal is soft with a dull coating. If you scrape it gently with a coin, a shiny silver strip will appear.

GO

## REDUCING LEAD LEVELS

Replacing lead pipes is the only sure way to eliminate lead levels completely. However, there are some quick, simple steps to take to reduce the lead levels in your drinking water:


-  **Only use water from the kitchen cold tap for drinking and cooking**, as hot water dissolves more lead than cold. Never cook or mix infant formula using water from the hot tap.
-  **Don't drink or cook with water that has stood for a long time in the pipes.** This means water standing overnight, or for several hours during the day. Run the tap for a couple of minutes before use and make sure you feel the temperature drop before cooking, drinking or brushing your teeth.
-  **Some water filters can remove traces of lead**, provided the cartridges are changed regularly. Follow the manufacturers' instructions and ensure that the filter is designed to remove lead. For independent advice concerning water filters contact, British Water at [www.britishwater.co.uk](http://www.britishwater.co.uk)
-  Boiling water **will not** remove lead from water.




GET A GRANT:

Low-income households could get support to replace lead pipework. Ask your local council.



 Customer responsibility

 Anglian Water responsibility

## LEAD SOLDER

Lead can also be picked up from lead based soldered pipe joints, typically used with copper pipes.

Lead solder was banned for use in domestic hot and cold water systems in 1987, making its use illegal. However it isn't a legal requirement to remove lead solder that was used before 1987, but it should not be used in any new plumbing work or repairs to older systems.

It can still be used for non-drinking water systems like central heating.



## Lead Advice Line

If you think you have lead pipes, call us to ask for a free lead test on **0345 070 3445**



## REPLACING YOUR PIPES

Pipes under the road or pavements up to the boundary of your property are usually our responsibility. The pipe from the property boundary up to and including the internal plumbing is normally the responsibility of the property owner. If you decide to replace the lead pipework to your property, we'll replace our bit too. The diagram on the front explains where the responsibilities lie.

GO

## WHAT TO DO NEXT

Whenever you alter or replace pipework in your home, ensure that you only use approved materials and an approved plumber or underground installer.

Anglian Water has an Approved Plumber Scheme [www.anglianwater.co.uk/developers/plumbers](http://www.anglianwater.co.uk/developers/plumbers)

Alternatively, call our Connections Team on **0345 60 66 087**

They can advise you on replacing your pipework, they'll even pop round to survey your property, to make sure you find the best option.

More information about lead is available at [www.anglianwater.co.uk/leadfacts](http://www.anglianwater.co.uk/leadfacts)



## CONTACT US



You can get further information on water quality from our website [www.anglianwater.co.uk/dwq](http://www.anglianwater.co.uk/dwq)

or call our Contact Centre on **03457 145 145**  
**24 hours a day, 7 days a week.**