

# The Town of Barnstable

## Department of Public Works

382 Falmouth Road, Hyannis, MA 02601  
508.790.6400



Daniel W. Santos, P.E.  
Director

Robert R. Steen, P.E.  
Assistant Director

## Hyannis Water System: Lead Service Line Inventory & Replacement Plan FAQ

### 1. **Question:**

What is The Hyannis Water System's Lead Service Line (LSL) Inventory?

#### **Answer:**

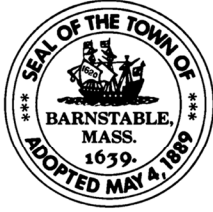
The Hyannis Water System's Lead Service Line Inventory is a comprehensive list of all water service lines and the materials they are constructed of. The Lead Service Line Inventory is required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as part of its Lead and Copper Rule Revisions. The Hyannis Water System's Lead Service Line Inventory is available here (PROVIDE LINK TO WSD "LEAD RESOURCES PAGE – LSLI PDF). A physical copy is available at the Hyannis Water System's main office at 47 Old Yarmouth Road, Hyannis, MA 02601.

### 2. **Question:**

Why have I received a notification letter saying my water service line may contain lead?

#### **Answer:**

Your water service line's material was identified as potentially containing either galvanized or unknown materials in the Hyannis Water System's service line materials inventory which was submitted to The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). The Hyannis Water System was required by the EPA and MassDEP to send a copy of the notification letter you received to customers and property owners of water service line's containing these materials within 30 days of submitting their inventory.



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### 3. **Question:**

Why did I **not** receive a notification letter about my water service line?

#### **Answer:**

If you did not receive a notice about the material of your water service line from the Hyannis Water System, this means we have been able to confirm your water service line does not contain lead based on available records and/or the date of its construction (the federal government banned installation of new lead service lines beginning in 1986).

### 4. **Question:**

Does this mean my house's water service line was installed with lead piping?

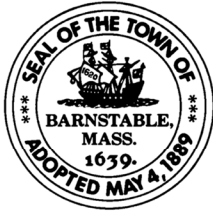
#### **Answer:**

Receiving this notification letter does not necessarily mean that your water service line was installed with lead piping and/or materials.

- For customers receiving notification letters that their service lines contain unknown materials, this means that existing Hyannis Water System's records did not indicate the material of the service line, so the possibility it may contain or be constructed of lead cannot be ruled out. **Customers who received this notification letter can help Hyannis Water System determine their service line's material by completing the survey at:**

[tinyurl.com/Barnstable-Self-Inspection](http://tinyurl.com/Barnstable-Self-Inspection)

- For customers receiving notification letters that their service lines contain galvanized materials, this means Hyannis Water System is unable to confirm their service line had never previously been fed by pipes containing lead. As a result, Hyannis Water System cannot confirm their service line has not absorbed or been previously exposed to lead.



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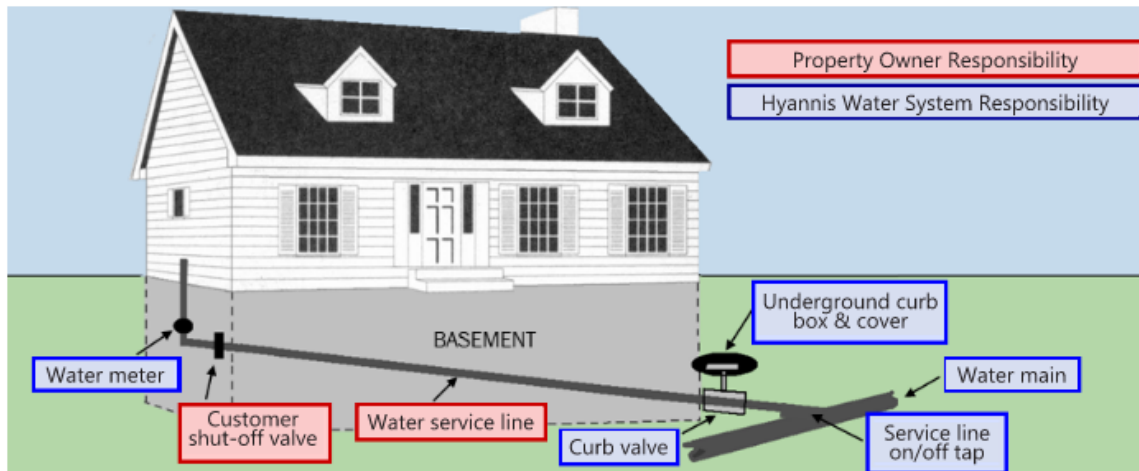
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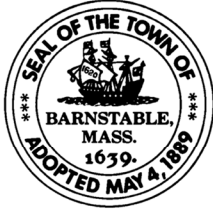
### 5. Question:

Does this mean the plumbing installed in my house contains lead piping?

### Answer:

The notification letter you received does not reflect the piping material of your home's plumbing and only refers to the material of your water service line. The water service line is the pipe connecting the water main in the road to your house ending at your water meter. Ownership of the water service line is split between the Hyannis Water System and Property Owners as depicted in the figure below.





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### 6. Question:

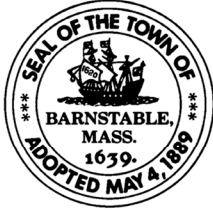
How has the Hyannis Water System addressed lead water lines in the past?

### Answer:

Historically, when the Hyannis Water System has discovered lead piping in our distribution system, we've responded by removing and replacing the portions of water lines and services owned by the Hyannis Water System. The Hyannis Water System's distribution system is split between portions which are owned by the Hyannis Water System and portions owned by Property Owners, as depicted in the figure below question 5.

The portion owned by the Hyannis Water System includes the water mains, valves, hydrants, and sections of the customer water service lines within the right-of-way; **The Hyannis Water System is not aware of the presence of any lead materials within this portion of the distribution system and has to date removed and replaced any lead materials upon their discovery.**

The Property Owner's portion consists of the remaining water service line up the water meter; **the Hyannis Water System is not aware of the presence of lead materials within this portion of the system and will continue working to identify unknown water service line materials.** Customers should note however, The Hyannis Water System is not responsible for the Property Owner's portion of water service lines and that customers will be responsible for any costs associated with its replacement.



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7. **Question:**

What are the next steps the Hyannis Water System will be taking now that the service line inventory is complete?

**Answer:**

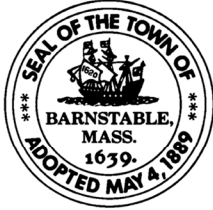
The Hyannis Water System will continue working to identify all remaining unknown water service line materials within our distribution system, updating the service line material inventory and notifying our customers accordingly. The Hyannis Water System will also be developing a plan, compliant with EPA and MassDEP regulations, for the replacement of any portion of lead and galvanized water service lines owned by the Hyannis Water System. If you are planning on replacing the portion of the service line that you own, please notify us at: 508-775-0063.

8. **Question:**

What can I do to reduce the risks of lead in my drinking water?

**Answer:**

- **Run your water to flush out lead.** Lead levels increase over time as water sits in lead-containing plumbing materials. Using water for purposes other than drinking or cooking first, like laundry or bathing, can help reduce lead levels in drinking water. Run the water for at least 1 minute or until after it turns cold.
- **Use only cold, fresh water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula.**
- **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water does not remove lead.
- Regularly clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator). Sediment, debris, and lead particles can collect in your aerator. Lead particles can release lead into your water. See how to clean your aerator at [www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-12/important-resources-for-safe-drinking-water.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-12/important-resources-for-safe-drinking-water.pdf)
- **Use your filter properly, if you use a filter.** Filters can reduce lead in drinking water. Make sure it is certified by NSF to remove lead; packaging will show NSF logo. Follow directions to properly install, use, and replace your filter. Do not run hot water through the filter. For more information, and which certifications to look for, visit [www.epa.gov/water-research/consumer-tool-identifying-point-use-and-pitcher-filterscertified-reduce-lead](http://www.epa.gov/water-research/consumer-tool-identifying-point-use-and-pitcher-filterscertified-reduce-lead).



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- **Identify and replace plumbing fixtures containing lead** and any copper piping with a lead solder, the material used to combine pipes.
- **Have your child's blood tested for lead.** Children are at higher risk from the health effects of lead. If you would like to have your child tested, contact your health care provider, or state health department here: 617-624-6000, or visit: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/childhood-lead-poisoning-prevention-program>.
- **Have your water tested for lead.** You cannot see, taste, or smell lead in drinking water. Contact Hyannis Water System at 508-775-0063 for more information on how to get your water tested by a state-certified laboratory. See the list of labs here: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/find-a-certified-laboratory-for-water-testing>.

### 9. **Question:**

What additional resources are available for me to learn more about the Lead Service Line Inventory or lead in drinking water?

### **Answer:**

- Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection:
  - Lead in Drinking Water: [www.mass.gov/lead-in-drinking-water](http://www.mass.gov/lead-in-drinking-water)
- EPA:
  - Lead Homepage: <https://www.epa.gov/lead>
  - Protect Your Family from Sources of Lead: [www.epa.gov/lead/protect-your-family-sources-lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead/protect-your-family-sources-lead)
  - Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>
- Lead Service Line Replacement Collaborative:
  - Information on Nationwide Efforts to Accelerate Full Removal of Lead Pipes Providing Drinking Water: <https://www.lslr-collaborative.org/>
- If you have any additional questions, please contact the Hyannis Water System
  - By phone at: 508-775-0063
  - By email at: [hyanniswater@town.barnstable.ma.us](mailto:hyanniswater@town.barnstable.ma.us)
  - In person at: 47 Old Yarmouth Road, Hyannis, MA 02601