



Residential Lead Water Service Line Replacement Program

May 7, 2026

RESIDENTIAL LEAD WATER SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

The Residential Lead Water Service Line Replacement Program was originally established to provide financial assistance to owner-occupied residential homes who replace their lead water service line. This program provides additional assistance to homeowners. **The water service lines for residential properties belong to and are the responsibility of the property owner per City Ordinance.** The program's intent is to offset a portion of the expense of updating a building's water service line to reduce the exposure to lead in water and to promote better health through clean water.

This is a reimbursement program, in which the homeowners must first receive approval to take part in the program prior to the replacement of the residential water service line. Improvements installed prior to approval are not eligible for reimbursement.

The City of Berwyn receives its water from Lake Michigan and the water system consists of approximately 100 miles of cast and ductile iron water mains. **None of the City's water mains contain lead.** Prior to 1980, the use of lead for water services was the industry standard for residential water services in this area. The lead exposure from water comes from corrosion within the private lead service lines and lead-based solder in older faucets.

To replace the water service line, the homeowner must be aware of the various items required by the City:

- A Permit for the Water Service Line Work ONLY (varies on the value of work).
- \$25.00 Parkway Use Fee (if applicable).
- \$75.00 Street Opening Fee (if applicable).
- \$75.00 Sidewalk Opening Fee (if applicable).
- \$50.00 Pre-Pour Inspection (for all concrete/asphalt removed by work).
- \$50.00 Restoration Inspection Fee.
- \$50.00 Parkway Inspection Fee (if applicable).
- \$1,000-\$1,500 Water Tap Fee (based on new service size being installed).

- 3 Plumbing Underground Inspections (\$50.00 each).
- Water Meter Upgrade Fee (varies on the size of the new water meter being installed).
- The required Restoration Deposit associated with the roadway, sidewalk and parkway restoration. This is refundable if all inspections are performed and the restoration is completed and approved on final inspection.

This Program is designed to assist homeowners in reducing the lead in water and promoting better health by replacing the aged water service line to their homes. However, there is always a risk of lead exposure through paint products and brass or chrome-plated brass faucets, galvanized iron pipes or other plumbing soldered with lead. Homeowners assume the risk of exposure through other sources.

Eligible homeowners may qualify for a 50% cost sharing, up to a maximum of \$2,500.00 for the replacement of their water service line. This is in addition to the savings from the original lead service line program started in 2016. That program included:

Waive TAP fee =	\$1,000
Waive permit fee	\$150
City to replace the pavement in two locations (disconnect and new tap)	\$2,000

HOMEOWNER PROTECTION

Residents concerned about lead in water or who know that their plumbing contains lead can take action to reduce the amount of lead in their drinking water and minimize the potential for exposure. Residents can also perform their own lead test for their water. The City utilizes Suburban Laboratories for testing. They can be contacted at: drinkingwaterlabs.com or by phone at (708) 544-3260. The cost for this test starts at \$45. Residents may also contact another local certified lab of their choice.

The following are steps that can be taken to reduce exposure to lead in water:

- Drinking or using only tap water that has been run through a “point-of-use” filter certified by

an independent testing organization to reduce or eliminate lead (NSF/ANSI standard 53 for lead removal and NSF/ANSI standard 42 for particulate removal). If an existing lead service line is in place, use a filter for all water used for drinking or cooking.

- Flush water to reduce potential exposure to lead from household lead plumbing. This is especially important when the water has been off and sitting in the pipes for more than 6 hours. Before drinking, flush the home's pipes by running the tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or doing a load of dishes. The amount of time to run the water will depend on whether the home has a lead service line or not, and the length of the lead service line. Drink or cook only with water that comes out of the tap cold. Water that comes out of the tap warm or hot can have higher levels of lead. Boiling this water will not reduce the amount of lead in your water.
- Contact your local health department to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about exposure.
- The local water authority is always the first source for testing and identifying lead contamination in tap water. The City issues data on drinking water quality, including results of lead testing. The City of Berwyn follows the IEPA guidelines for the testing of lead and copper. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency also has information about drinking water requirements for states and public water systems. Contact the EPA at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-information> for more information on drinking water.

ITEMS COVERED UNDER THIS PROGRAM

This Program covers the various items required for water service line replacement plus 50% of the cost up to a \$2,500.00 reimbursement. The following are the costs that are covered as part of this program:

- Permit for the Water Service Line Work ONLY.
- Parkway Use Fee (if applicable).
- Street Opening Fee (if applicable).
- Sidewalk Opening Fee (if applicable).

- The first Pre-Pour Inspection (for all concrete/asphalt removed by work). If additional inspections are required, they must be paid by the homeowner.
- Restoration Inspection Fee.
- Parkway Inspection Fee (if applicable).
- Water Tap Fee (based on new service size being installed).

The following are costs that will not be covered by this program:

- Restoration Deposits are required from the **CONTRACTOR**. Restoration Deposits are refundable if all final inspections are approved.
- Restoration from open cut (trench) service replacements. Directional boring method of services has the least amount of disturbance.
- Removal and replacement of interior basement walls and finishes.
- Use of materials not meeting the requirements of the City's Specifications or Codes.
- Ancillary or enhancement-type homeowner improvements not necessary to replace the water service line.
- Parkway restoration, including but not limited to, planting of new or replacement landscaping (bushes and trees), seeding or sod.
- Expenses incurred prior to City approval of application packet.
- Plumbing Underground Inspection Fees.
- Water Meter Upgrade Fee (varies on the size of the new water meter being installed).
- The owner or contractor will be responsible for scheduling the pre-pour inspection with the Building Department.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

This program is open to owner-occupied single-family homes that were built with a lead or galvanized water service line. If homeowners are unsure of what material the type of water service is, they can contact a plumber or schedule an appointment to do a service and meter inspection. **Single-family is defined as both traditional single-family homes as well as multi-family residences of 1-3 units where the owner occupies at least one**

unit. A property will be eligible for this program only once. Applications will be accepted until the funds dedicated to this purpose have been expended; afterwards, interested applicants will be put on a waiting list until funds become available.

Homeowners are considered **ineligible** if:

- Any unpaid taxes or water bills or other debt is due to the City.
- Any unpaid final judgments of liability from the Office of Adjudication are due and owed.
- Any unpaid City liens that are on any property owned by the applicant.
- Any outstanding Code violations including existing violations that the homeowner has been advised of and has not corrected.
- The homeowner is not current on any other City obligations; or not in compliance with requirements of the City Code, including but not limited to multi-family licensing, alarm permitting, or vacant building registration.

PROCEDURES

The City will undertake this Residential Lead Water Service Line Replacement Program immediately. The City reserves the right to modify the administration of the Residential Lead Water Service Line Replacement Program, as well as policies, procedures and rules adopted under this Residential Lead Water Service Line Replacement Program as a result of the information and experience compiled throughout the program.

The basic steps in the procedure for the overall program are as follows:

1. The homeowner establishes initial intent to participate in the Residential Lead Water Service Line Replacement Program by submitting a Waiting List Application Form with their name, address, phone number and e-mail address to the Engineering Department by calling 708-749-6434, via email to pubworksenineering@ci.berwyn.il.us or in person at 3322 S. Grove Ave. or by fax to 708-749-6593. The form can also be filled out and printed from the City's website at <https://www.berwyn-il.gov/government/departmental-directory/traffic-services>.

2. The plumbing inspector and/or Engineer will undertake the building inspections to establish the existing conditions and to determine if the property is eligible.
3. If the homeowner is not eligible, the Senior Engineer will notify the homeowner of the reason for the ineligibility. If the reason for the ineligibility is due to an outstanding debt, judgment or code compliance issue, the homeowner will be allowed to satisfy those obligations, come into compliance with the City Code, and re-apply. For purposes of determining priority, the homeowner's place in line will be based upon the date of reapplication.
4. After being deemed eligible, the homeowner shall provide "final notice of intent" to participate in the program by signing and returning a completed application packet. The application packet consists of:
 - a) A completed Application Form and Letter of Agreement; and
 - b) A detailed proposal typed on company letterhead from an Illinois licensed plumbing contractor(s), which includes technical information on materials, etc. that will be used on the improvement, as well as an affidavit and unit fixture count form. The City encourages homeowners to obtain at least three estimates from qualified contractors for this work.
5. The City reviews the application packet and formally replies to the homeowner of approval or denial. The City's response will identify the portions of the proposed improvement that are eligible and that are not eligible, as well as the maximum amount of eligible cost-sharing reimbursement. The City will NOT identify or comment on whom the homeowner selects as their contractor.
6. After review and approval of the contract for eligibility compliance, the homeowner shall then authorize the contractor to do the work by executing the contract.

7. The contractor shall follow all project requirements, obtain the permit for construction (permit fees will be waived for items qualifying under this program) and schedule City and Plumbing Inspection visits (inspection fees apply as outlined in previous sections) as required during construction. The City shall inspect the improvement, maintain records of inspections and approve the final installation. **NOTE: Incomplete or unresolved inspections will delay a homeowner's receipt of reimbursement funds.**

8. Upon completion of the work, the homeowner shall submit the following:
- a) The Certification of Work Complete form signed by the homeowner and contractor affirming that the work was finished;
 - b) The Reimbursement form signed by the homeowner;
 - c) Proof of payment in full (paid invoice or receipt) from the contractor; and
 - d) Certification from the City Inspector that the work was completed in accordance with City Codes and passed final inspection.
9. The Senior Engineer shall review the documents, certify the eligible improvement costs and requested reimbursement amount, and forward the approved Request for Reimbursement to the City Finance Department.

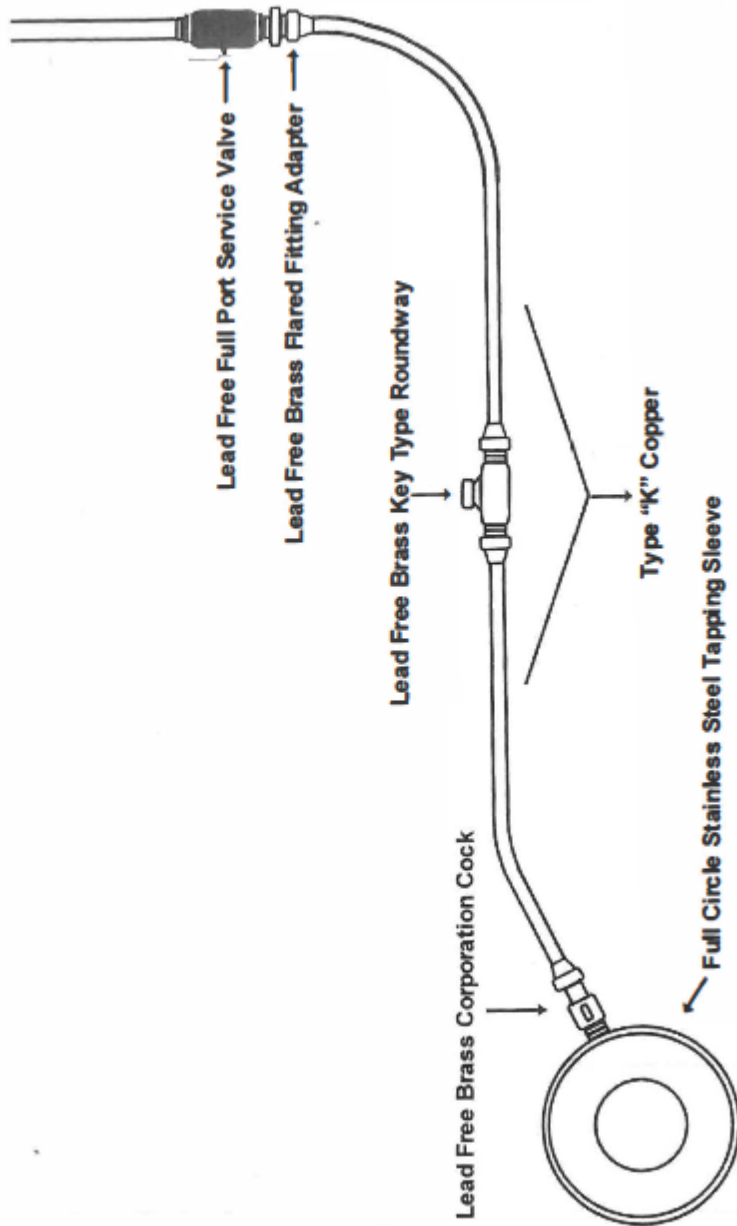


Figure 1