VILLAGE OF RUIDOSO NEW MEXICO

313 CREE MEADOWS DRIVE
RUIDOSO, NM, 88345
575-258-4343

WWW.RUIDOSO-NM.GOV

**Date: October 3, 2025**

**DEAR RESIDENT**

**Re: Notice of Galvanized Service Line**

Dear Resident,

We are writing to inform you of an important matter concerning the water service lines in your area. As part of our ongoing efforts to ensure the safety and quality of the drinking water supply, we have recently completed a records review of service lines within our community.

The Village of Ruidoso is focused on protecting the health of every household in our community. This notice contains important information about your drinking water. Please share this information with anyone who drinks and/or cooks using water at this property. In addition to people directly served at this property, this can include people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, businesses, as well as parents served by childcare at this property.

The Village conducted an initial service line inventory of our water system by reviewing our available historical records. The purpose was to identify lead, galvanized, and unknown pipes. The initial service line inventory can be viewed at the Village website: https://www.ruidoso-nm.gov/.

It has been determined that either a portion of, or the entire water pipe (called a service line) that connects your home, building, or other structure to the water main is made from **galvanized material** that may have absorbed lead. EPA has defined these service lines as “galvanized requiring replacement”. Our records indicate that either a lead service line pipe may be present or might have been present in the past.

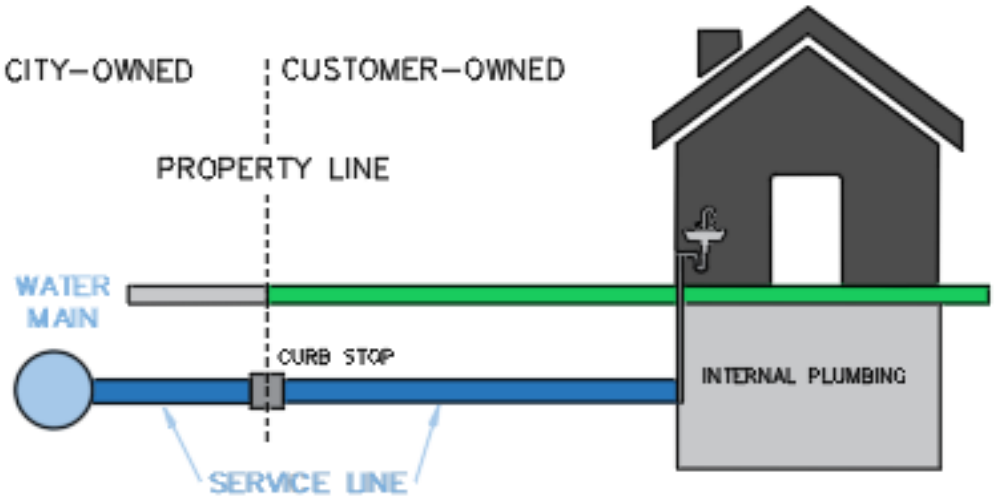
Galvanized service lines that have absorbed lead can contribute to lead in drinking water. People living in homes with a galvanized service line that has absorbed lead may have an increased risk of exposure to lead from their drinking water. If a galvanized service line was ever downstream of a lead service line, gooseneck, or lead soldered joints it may have absorbed lead.

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The figure below represents a typical scenario for a residence in many cases but does not represent all scenarios.




## Health effects of lead

*Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or worsen existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these negative health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems.*

## Steps you can take to reduce lead in drinking water.

Below are recommended actions that you may take, separately or in combination, if you are concerned about lead in your drinking water. The list also includes where you may find more information and is not intended to be a complete list or to imply that all actions equally reduce lead in drinking water.

- ***Use your filter properly.*** Using a filter can reduce lead in drinking water. If you use a filter, it should be certified to remove lead. Read any directions provided with the filter to learn how to properly install, maintain, and use your cartridge and when to replace it. Using the cartridge after it has expired can make it less effective at removing lead. Do not run hot water through the filter. For more information on facts and advice on home water filtration systems, visit EPA's website at https://www.epa.gov/water-research/consumer-tool-identifying-point-use-and-pitcher-filters-certified-reduce-lead.
- ***Clean your aerator.*** Regularly remove and clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator). Sediment, debris, and lead particles can collect in your aerator. If lead particles are caught in the aerator, lead can get into your water.

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- ***Use cold water.*** Do not use hot water from the tap for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula as lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Boiling water does not remove lead from water.
- ***Run your water.*** The more time water has been sitting in pipes providing water to your home, the more lead it may contain. Before drinking, flush your 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 your home has a lead service line or not, as well as the length and diameter of the service line and the amount of plumbing in your home.
- ***Learn about construction in your neighborhood****.* Construction may cause more lead to be released from a lead service line or galvanized service line if present. Contact us to find out about any construction or maintenance work that may disturb your service line.
- ***Have your water tested.*** Contact the Village at (575) 258-4343, for information about the steps you can take to have your water tested and to learn more about the lead levels in your drinking water. Alternatively, you may contact a certified laboratory to have your water tested for lead. Note, a water sample may not adequately capture or represent all sources of lead that may be present. For information on sources of lead that include service lines and interior plumbing, please visit https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water#getinto.
- ***Get your child tested to determine lead levels in their blood.*** A family doctor or pediatrician can perform a blood test for lead and provide information about the health effects of lead. State, city, or county departments of health can also provide information about how you can have your child's blood tested for lead. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends public health actions when the level of lead in a child's blood is 3.5 micrograms per deciliter (µg/dL) or more. For more information and links to CDC's website, please visit https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water.

## Replacing lead service lines

The Village is currently developing a lead service replacement line plan to replace known lead/galvanized service lines and to identify those services lines with unknown material. Per EPA regulations, all lead/galvanized services lines within Village limits will be replaced by the year 2037. For more information about this plan, contact the Water Resources Department at (575) 258-4343.

If you are planning on replacing the portion of the service line that you own, please notify the Water Resources Department. The Village is required to replace the city-owned portion of the service line if you replace the customer portion of your service line.

## Information about potential financing solutions

Information from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development funding assistance can be found at https://www.hud.gov/helping-americans/home-improvements

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Information on USDA Rural Development Single Family Housing Repair Loans & Grants in New Mexico can be found at https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/single-family-housing-programs/single-family-housing-repair-loans-grants-11

Information on USDA Rural Development Individual Water & Wastewater Grants in New Mexico can be found at https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/single-family-housing-programs/individual-water-wastewater-grants/nm

**For more information on reducing lead exposure** from your drinking water and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at *http://www.epa.gov/lead*.

NOTE: If you haven't filled out the attached customer-owned service line survey, please follow the QR code or link below to identify your customer-owned service line material: https://arcg.is/1mPnr91

Sincerely,

Constance Tucker

Constance Tucker
Water Resource Director