

your leader in lead information

H2Oconnection

JANUARY 2017



A Service of The City of Cincinnati
GREATER CINCINNATI
WATER WORKS

SAFE DRINKING WATER REMAINS TOP PRIORITY

For nearly 200 years, Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW) has been a dependable provider of safe drinking water for the greater Cincinnati region.

In light of the current national attention regarding drinking water lead contamination in Ohio and nearby states, GCWW and the City of Cincinnati want to reassure citizens that maintaining and providing safe drinking water to our customers is the number one priority.

THERE'S A MAP FOR THAT!

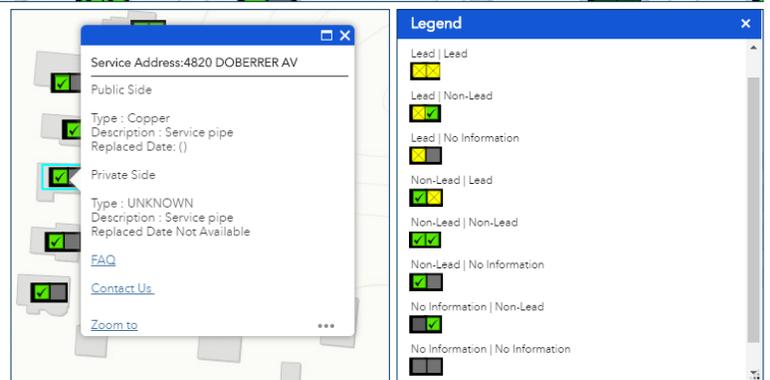
GCWW Launches New, Interactive Lead Service Line Lookup Map on Lead.myGCWW.org



Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW) continues to provide information and solutions pertaining to the national issue of lead in water; and has launched a new, interactive lead service line lookup map that provides residents and businesses with information regarding both the public and private water service lines.

This new interactive map is an additional resource to assist customers with further understanding where lead service lines are located. With this map customers are aware of the service line material, so they can make informed decisions; and minimize their exposure to lead in water.

Customers can simply enter an address to find a location. While there, they can click on map symbols to obtain more information about the water service branch, or move around the map to see other areas.



GCWW data for the map comes from asset-management records, including water main and service line records; maintenance records; and data from repair and replacement work over the years.



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GCWW INTRODUCES ENHANCED LEAD PROGRAM MANAGER

GCWW's Enhanced Lead Program

While GCWW compliance testing programs show the overall lead levels in the City meet the Federal Action Level; GCWW continues to build upon its Enhanced Lead Program. Most recently, GCWW partnered with Cincinnati Public Schools, the Cincinnati Health Department and Hamilton County Public Health to provide support and outreach to schools and child care facilities about lead.

Although the City of Cincinnati stopped installing lead service lines in 1927; approximately 15,000 lead services still remain on the public side; and as many as 27,000 may remain on the private side.

The best way to reduce the lead exposure is to remove the lead service line completely. GCWW was recently approved by City Council for a 15-year lead service line replacement program to remove these lines and is currently working to establish this new program within the utility. Look for more information soon regarding this program.

For more information regarding GCWW's Enhanced Lead Program, visit Lead.myGCWW.org.



GCWW is pleased to introduce **Jason DeLaet** as the Enhanced Lead Program Manager.

Jason was promoted to Supervising Engineer in 2009, working in the Construction Administration and Inspection Section of GCWW's Engineering Division. In this role, he managed all water main replacement projects during the construction phase; making sure that these projects were completed on time and within budget. His responsibilities also included submitting payments to contractors and negotiating change orders while fielding the occasional residential concerns.

Prior to his promotion, Jason was hired by GCWW in 2004 where he worked as a Senior Engineer in the Systems Section of the Engineering Division, and he managed the annual street improvement/water main replacement program and coordinated these with the many jurisdictions served by GCWW.

As program manager, Jason will play a key role in the Enhanced Lead Program. There are many components included in the program that work in conjunction with each other, including water sampling & testing, communications & outreach, lead service line replacement, records, information technology, and customer service. His responsibility is to unify these efforts and work towards a lead-safe Cincinnati.



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WORKING FOR LEAD-SAFE FACILITIES

GCWW is working closely with schools, child care facilities, and Cincinnati Recreation centers to sample their water and make sure those facilities are lead-safe. GCWW has focused on these types of facilities because young children tend to congregate at these locations and are at higher risk of adverse health effects from lead exposure.

In 2016, GCWW partnered with the Cincinnati Public Schools and many other local school districts to collect samples and provide free analysis of the water. Out of the approximately 388 schools in our service area, GCWW is actively working with more than 100 schools. In addition, GCWW is continuing to reach out to child care facilities, and has begun sampling their water as well as City buildings including Cincinnati Recreation centers.

**WORKING WITH 105 SCHOOLS AND
CHILD CARE FACILITIES**

COMPLETED SAMPLES AT 17 SCHOOLS

Schools were a priority when GCWW began the Enhanced Lead Program because of the number of children regularly present in these facilities. For the safety of their students, many schools have taken the initiative by sampling their water and working to eliminate the potential risk of lead exposure to their students. As GCWW expands this program to encompass child care facilities, recreation centers, and other non-residential buildings where children are present, our goal is for these facilities to join us in our efforts to make Cincinnati a lead-safe city.

DO YOU OWN OR USE A CHILD CARE FACILITY?



With the recent national attention in the news regarding lead in drinking water, have you considered having the water tested at your child care facility? Even if you do not have a lead service line, lead could still be present in your plumbing fixtures.

Lead exposure can cause serious health issues and is dangerous to young children and developing fetuses. It interferes with brain/nervous system development; produces serious health impacts from ingestion/inhalation; and unfortunately, these symptoms of lead poisoning are irreversible. The best way to address the health effects caused by lead exposure is prevention.

For more information and how to obtain your free lead sampling kit, contact:

Kathleen Frey at 591-5068
kathleen.frey@gcww.cincinnati-oh.gov

or **Jim Nelson** at 591-6869
james.nelson@gcww.cincinnati-oh.gov

For More Information About Lead, Visit Lead.myGCWW.org

**A variety of resources are available
at Lead.myGCWW.org:**

- Archived editions of *H2O Connection*
- New Service Line Lookup Map
- Lead Testing in Schools (information and results)
- Lead FAQs
- The EPA's *3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools* (available as printable PDF)
- Other helpful links and resources



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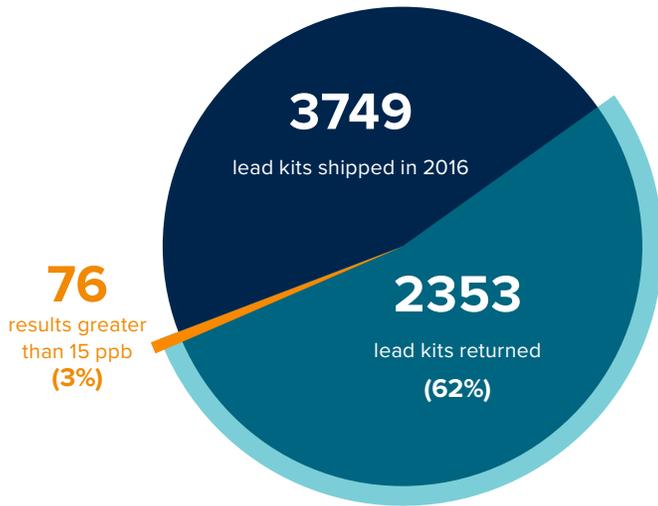
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LEAD BY THE NUMBERS*



Lead Test Kit Statistics

Lead test kits are used to sample and test water for the presence of lead. The lead kits shipped is the number of kits requested by our customers and shipped to them, and the lead kits returned are those that were returned for testing.



Lead Test Kits Requested in 2016

A continuation of the Lead Test Kit Statistics broken down by month.



*Accurate as of 12.30.2016

COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

GCWW has always taken Lead very seriously. In the October issue of the *H2O Connection* Newsletter, there is an article, "Safe Water Is The First Priority." This article mentions corrosion controls that have been in place at GCWW to reduce the risk of lead exposure. While proven effective in minimizing lead, it is still possible for lead to leach into water. Therefore, GCWW has created the Enhanced Lead Program to assist customers with questions and information about the issue of lead, and part of the program includes communication and outreach.

GCWW's Enhanced Lead Program's communication and outreach educates the public regarding the health effects of lead, and assists with ways to eliminate it in drinking water. GCWW has created many ways to communicate this valuable information. GCWW offers a lead website: Lead.myGCWW.org, social media updates, informational letters to customers with lead service lines, lead hotline 651-LEAD (651-5323), attendance at community and stakeholder meetings, a quarterly newsletter, and free test kits and analysis.



LEAD LINE REPLACEMENT CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE

GCWW is evaluating possible funding options for lead service line replacement. If you are interested in receiving updates, as they become available, please complete the GCWW Lead Line Replacement Customer Assistance Program form located at: Lead.myGCWW.org.

Please keep in mind that this is NOT a guarantee of assistance, but rather a way to stay updated on assistance programs as they become available.