

NEW LOOK!



A Service of The City of Cincinnati

**GREATER CINCINNATI
WATER WORKS**

leading the way in lead information

H2Oconnection

SPRING 2019

GCWW Launches Updated Lead Awareness Website!

For the convenience of Greater Cincinnati residents, business owners, and property owners, Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW) has created a one-stop-shop for all of its lead-related resources. The web address is the same, but the site has been completely redesigned!

Going to **Lead.myGCWW.org** launches users into an interactive website, with important information about lead in drinking water.

leading
the way

- removing lead
- protecting health
- revitalizing communities

▶ *Continued on next page...*





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GREATER CINCINNATI
WATER WORKS

GCWW Launches Updated Lead Awareness Website (continued)

A user can easily find what they need, such as if a property is served by a lead service line, tips for how to check the material of your service line, getting a free lead test kit, and information on the health effects of lead. Some of these resources may be familiar to a previous GCWW website visitor, but now they are displayed in an intuitive format (Figure A):

For example:

- The “Lead Map” has a strong presence on the website, making it possible for website visitors to determine if they have a lead service line (Figure B).
- Depending on the water service line material users discover for their property on the “Lead Map,” they can “Request a Test Kit” from multiple pages on the website (Figure C).
- FAQs, water quality and treatment information, and resources for property owners, schools, childcare providers and tenants from the previous website were thoughtfully reorganized to make the most efficient user experience.
- Two new videos are available on the website, demonstrating to viewers how they can reduce their exposure to lead and what a lead service line replacement looks like during construction.
- The “Contact Us” page directs website users to the GCWW staff member who can best answer their question, whether they are a property owner, childcare provider, tenant, media, or public utility.



Figure A

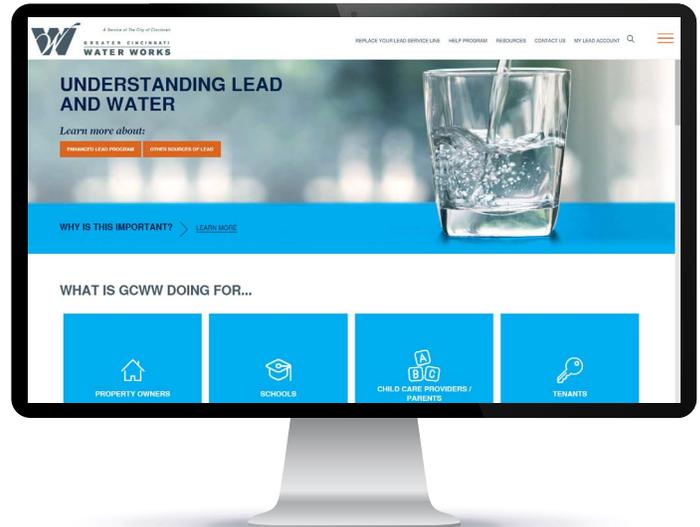


Figure B

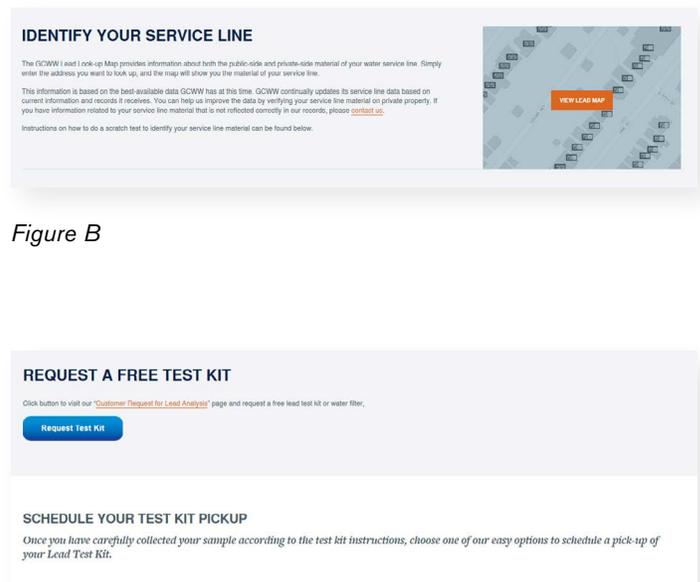
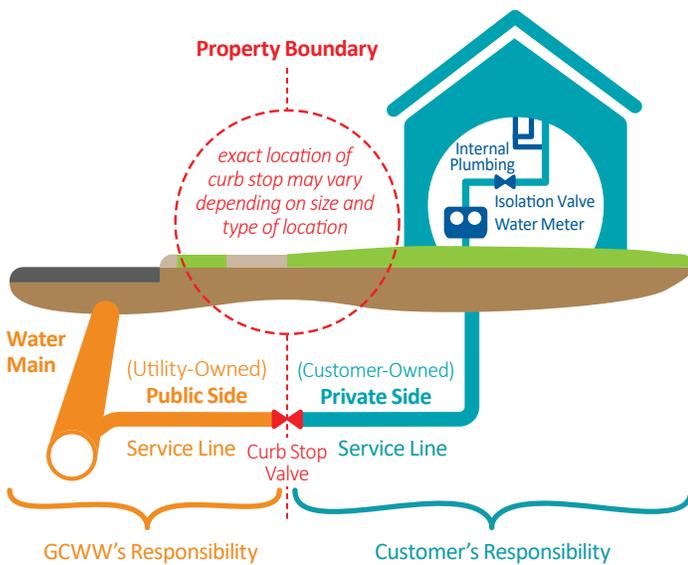


Figure C

We welcome feedback and comments!

Lead Service Line Replacement Totals

Learn more about how you can help add to the total number of Lead Service Line Replacements by visiting Lead.myGCWW.org today!



Public Side: CY2018 Total

318



2019 To Date: **253** • April 2019: **73**

Private Side: CY2018 Total

174



2019 To Date: **154** • April 2019: **47**

Working For Lead-Safe Schools

Over the next two months, Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW) will be wrapping up lead water sampling at schools for the 2018-2019 school year. Sampling will begin again in September 2019. Why the break? For the test results to reflect an accurate representation of potential lead exposure in water, the samples can only be taken during months when school is in session.

To date, GCWW is proud to announce that we have completed sampling and testing at more than 100 schools! Has your school already sampled? To find your school and see the results, visit our website, Lead.myGCWW.org, or for more information and how to schedule your school for testing, call Jim Nelson at (513) 591-6869 or email james.nelson@gcww.cincinnati-oh.gov.

In 2016, GCWW began forming partnerships with public and private schools within our service area, collecting samples and providing free analysis of their water. Today, GCWW continues to partner with schools, child care facilities, recreation centers, and other non-residential buildings where children are present, to sample water and ensure those facilities are lead-safe. Since young children are most susceptible to the adverse health effects from lead exposure and spend significant time at these facilities, eliminating the potential risk of lead exposure at these locations is crucial. As GCWW expands the Enhanced Lead Program, the ultimate goal is for all of these facilities to join us in our efforts to make Cincinnati lead-safe.



Are you buying a home?

Be sure to check if the property has a lead service line!

Spring is typically the busiest time of year for homes sales. Buying a home can be very stressful as there are many steps that must be completed throughout the process, one of which is having a home inspection. *Did you know the State of Ohio Residential Property Disclosure Form does not require the property owner to disclose to the buyer if the home is serviced by a lead service line (LSL)?*

Lead Service Line Identification: How to Confirm it is Lead

What should a customer do if they believe their water service line may be copper, but the Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW) Lead Map indicates it is a lead service line?

Step One (customer): Visit Lead.myGCWW.org to determine if your property has a lead service line by searching your address on our Lead Map. The Lead Map can be located by searching “Do I Have A Lead Service Line?” on the website.

Step Two (customer): If you discover the results differ from what GCWW indicates on our Lead Map, and your line is not lead, please perform a self-identification test on your water service line. Instructions on how to perform a self-identification test can be found on our website below the Lead Map information.

Step Three (customer): Upon completion of the self-identification test, please fill out and submit the information form requested on the website. Also, email a photo of your water service line and water

Don't worry, there are a couple ways you can determine if a property is served by an LSL:

1. One way is during your home inspection – ask your inspector to verify if the house is served by an LSL.
2. Another way would be to visit Lead.myGCWW.org and click on the Lead Map – this will help show you if a property is served by an LSL on both the public and the private side.

If it is determined a property is served by an LSL, you can either have the LSL completely removed by the current property owner as a condition of home sale or have GCWW remove it as part of our Lead Service Line Replacement Program (LSLRP).

As recommended by the USEPA National Drinking Water Advisory Council, completely removing the entire LSL is the most effective way to reduce potential exposure to lead in your water.

For more information about our LSLRP visit Lead.myGCWW.org or call 651-LEAD (5323) to speak to a GCWW Representative.

meter to GCWW at Lead@GCWW.cincinnati-oh.gov. If the photos clearly determine the service line is to be copper, GCWW will schedule an outside inspection of the water service line at the property line.

Step Four (GCWW): GCWW will schedule and dispatch a crew to excavate a small hole in the least intrusive manner possible at the property line to expose the water service line for material verification. Upon material verification, GCWW will update the Lead Map.

Step Five (GCWW): Once excavation is complete, and your line has been identified and recorded, the crew will temporarily backfill the area. If the excavation was done in a paved area, a contractor will return within 60 days to restore the removed pavement material as weather permits. Any excavation done in the grass area will be restored with 12” of topsoil including seed and straw, usually within two to three weeks of the work.