

**ANSWERS TO COMMON QUESTIONS: LEAD SERVICE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM PACKET No. 104
SAINT PAUL REGIONAL WATER SERVICES (SPRWS)**

1. Q. Do I have a lead water service?

A. SPRWS records show that the portion of water service on your private property (sidewalk to water meter) is probably the original lead water service. Lead water services were originally installed to most homes built before 1926 and some homes built in 1944 thru 1947. It is the property owner's responsibility to verify material type.

2. Q. How can I check to see if the portion of water service on my private property is lead?

A. Ask someone familiar with plumbing to look at the pipe material on the street side of the water meter. You may need to lightly scrape off paint or dirt to see the underlying material. Lead pipe is a gray color.

3. Q. How are lead water services replaced?

A. Water services are replaced in two parts.

- 1) The property owner must first hire a plumbing contractor to replace the portion of water service on private property (water meter to sidewalk). A list of plumbing contractors has been included. Pipe work must be inspected by SPRWS. Recent costs have typically ranged from \$2,400 to \$4,500, the average being about \$3,300. The cost to replace your service will depend on the particular conditions of your installation.
- 2) If the portion of water service in the street is not already copper, SPRWS will replace it at no cost to the homeowner. SPRWS reserves the right to schedule replacement of the existing lead service connection in the street for any of the following reasons:
 - To coordinate replacement with construction projects.
 - To avoid excavation in a recently constructed or paved street.
 - To avoid excavation in frozen ground.

4. Q. Am I required to replace the lead water service on my property?

A. If the water service is not leaking, it does not need to be replaced and you may disregard all the enclosed information about your lead water service. If a leak should occur in the future, the water service must be replaced at that time.

5. Q. How does the lead water service replacement assessment program work?

- 1) After completion of replacement work, the property owner must submit an Application / Completion Form (yellow form), together with the Waiver of Mechanic's Lien Rights and Final Invoice of costs to SPRWS for payment.
- 2) SPRWS will process the forms and mail a check to the plumber contractor listed on the approved Application / Completion form.
- 3) The plumber's Final Invoice amount plus an administration fee will be added to the property taxes to be assessed over period of up to 20 years at an interest rate determined by the City Council. The typical range of recent interest rates has been 5% to 7%.

6. Q. Are there eligibility requirements for the assessment program?

A. The assessment application will be verified for eligibility by SPRWS. Requirements are:

- Property must be located in St. Paul.
- Applicant must be the owner of record as shown on current tax statements.
- Property taxes must not be delinquent.

7. Q. Can I replace my lead water service and pay the plumber contractor directly?

A. Yes, participation in the assessment program is voluntary.

8. Q. I need some additional plumbing work done. Can I have that assessed also?

A. No. Only work associated with the replacement of the lead water service is eligible for assessment. Do not include non-eligible work on the Final Invoice.

9. Q. Can I pay the assessment early?

A. Yes. The assessment balance may be paid partially or completely at any time pursuant to prepayment criteria.

