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# Jemez Springs Domestic Water Association

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## List of Possible FAQs

### 1. Should I be concerned about lead in my drinking water?

The Jemez Springs Domestic Water Association has no evidence of lead piping in its distribution system and routine water quality testing has not detected lead at levels of concern. Based on available information, it is unlikely that drinking water delivered by the system contains unsafe levels of lead.

While testing is conducted in accordance with EPA requirements, it is important to note that routine sampling does not test every home or plumbing system and cannot detect lead that may be present on private property or within customer-owned service lines.

### 2. What is a service line and who is responsible for it?

A service line is the pipe that carries water from the public water main to a home or building(s). Service lines are typically divided into two portions:

- The **utility-owned portion**, maintained by the Jemez Springs Domestic Water Association
- The **customer-owned portion**, maintained by the property owner

The Association owns and maintains the service line up to and including the meter. The customer-owned portion begins immediately beyond the meter, on the customer side, and extends into the residence or building(s), regardless of meter location.

### 3. What is the Lead Service Line Inventory?

The Lead Service Line Inventory is a federal requirement that documents the material of service lines throughout the water system. Lines are categorized as lead, non-lead, galvanized requiring replacement, or unknown.

The Association has completed and submitted its initial inventory and is actively working to identify and verify any remaining unknown service line materials in accordance with EPA and New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) requirements.

### 4. How accurate is the inventory?

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The inventory is based on available system records, including installation and repair documentation, historical maps, and field verification where applicable.

In general, service lines installed after the federal ban on lead in plumbing materials (1986) are presumed not to contain lead unless records indicate otherwise. However, some areas of the system lack complete historical information, which is why field verification and customer input may still be necessary.

## **5. What happens if a service line is unknown or suspected to contain lead?**

If a service line material cannot be confirmed, it is classified as “unknown” and remains under review.

If a lead or lead-containing service line is identified, the Association will notify the property owner and coordinate next steps as appropriate. The Association will replace any lead service lines within its ownership as required by regulation.

Replacement of the customer-owned portion of the service line is not automatically performed by the Association unless required by law or supported through applicable funding programs.

## **6. What should I do if I know or suspect my service line contains lead or unknown materials?**

Customers are encouraged to contact the Association if they have information regarding service line materials, installation age, or prior testing results.

This information can help improve the accuracy of the inventory and assist in identifying potential risks within the system.

## **7. What can I do, and how will I stay informed?**

If lead is present in plumbing materials, exposure can be reduced by:

- Flushing cold water for 30–60 seconds before use if water has been sitting
- Using only cold water for drinking and cooking
- Cleaning faucet aerators regularly
- Using NSF-certified filters designed to reduce lead

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The Association will provide updates through billing notices, written public notifications, website postings, and direct communication when additional information is needed.

## 8. What can I do to reduce potential exposure to lead?

If lead is present in plumbing materials, exposure can be reduced by:

- Flushing cold water for 30–60 seconds before use if water has been sitting
- Using only cold water for drinking and cooking
- Cleaning faucet aerators regularly
- Using NSF-certified filters designed to reduce lead

## 9. How will I be informed of updates?

The Association will provide updates through:

- Customer billing notices
- Written public notifications
- Website postings
- Direct outreach when additional information is needed

## 10. Where can I learn more?

For more information about lead in drinking water and federal requirements, you may visit:

- EPA Lead Information: <https://www.epa.gov/lead>
- EPA Drinking Water Lead & Copper Rule: <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/lead-and-copper-rule>
- CDC Lead Information: <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/>
- New Mexico Environment Department Drinking Water Program: [https://www.env.nm.gov/drinking\\_water/](https://www.env.nm.gov/drinking_water/)