

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is the Lead and Copper Rules Revision?

Issued on December 16, 2021, the **Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR)** strengthen the existing Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) by:

- Improving lead sampling and corrosion control
- Expanding public education and customer outreach
- Starting lead testing in schools and childcare facilities
- Requiring a **public inventory of all service lines**
- Initiating more lead service line replacements

### 2. What is the purpose of LCRR?

The purpose of LCRR is to ensure drinking water throughout the United States is safe to drink.

### 3. Why is Hogansville required to abide by LCRR and perform service line inventories?

LCRR and the service line inventories are not specific to Hogansville. Every water system in the United States is required to determine the service line material for every service line in their system by October 2024.

### 4. Is there a way to keep City staff from digging in my yard?

Yes! There are several conditions that might exempt us from needing to dig in your yard:

- If you can send documentation (photos, receipt from plumber, etc.) that your service line was replaced from the meter to the house after 1990
- If you dig up and send photos of your service line showing that it is either copper, pvc or plastic pipe
- If your house was built after 1990

### 5. What is the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR)?

In 1974, the **Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)** granted the EPA authority to set national standards for drinking water, forbid the use of lead in pipes and plumbing, and paved the way for the Lead and Copper Rule.

The Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) was issued in 1991 and established national requirements for lead sampling, Corrosion Control Treatment (CCT), Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR), public education, and community awareness.

Replacing an interim rule from 1975, the LCR was the first federal law overseeing lead and copper levels.

## 6. What were the original LCR requirements?

The LCR's primary focus was CCT (corrosion control treatment), lead sampling, and establishing a lead "action level" for water systems - though LSLR is included as a final resort if lead levels don't improve.

The **Lead and Copper Rule**:

- Set a goal to remove all lead from drinking water.
- Required water systems to collect water samples from areas with LSLs or lead plumbing.
- Created a 15 microgram/liter lead "action level" mandating water systems intervene if lead levels surpassed this mark.
- Ordered LSLR and public education if water systems weren't able to stay below the "action level" through advanced CCT.

The **EPA made revisions to the LCR** in 2000, 2004, and 2007, but these changes concerned implementation and didn't revise the fundamentals of the rule.

## 7. What are the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR)?

The **Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR)** introduce three new major requirements for public water systems:

- Testing in schools and childcare facilities
- Comprehensive and publicly available Lead Service Line inventories
- A "trigger level" for lead sampling to initiate mitigation at lower lead levels.
- Additionally, the LCRR strengthens existing measures, including corrosion control treatment, lead service line replacement, lead sampling, customer outreach, and public education.

The EPA implemented the LCRR on December 16, 2021, and the first compliance date is October 16, 2024.

## **8. Is there a safe level of lead in drinking water?**

EPA has set the maximum contaminant level goal for lead in drinking water at zero because lead can be harmful to human health even at low exposure levels.

<https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/prevention/sources/water.htm#:~:text=EPA%20has%20set%20the%20maximum,even%20at%20low%20exposure%20levels.>

Health Impacts of Lead:

[Fact Sheet Lead 02.07.23c Clean Water action.pdf](#)

## **9. Does the city water have lead in it before it gets to the service line at my residence?**

No. The latest report, entitled the “2022 Drinking Water Quality Report” presented to the City of Hogansville shows no lead in all samples taken and tested by the EPA.

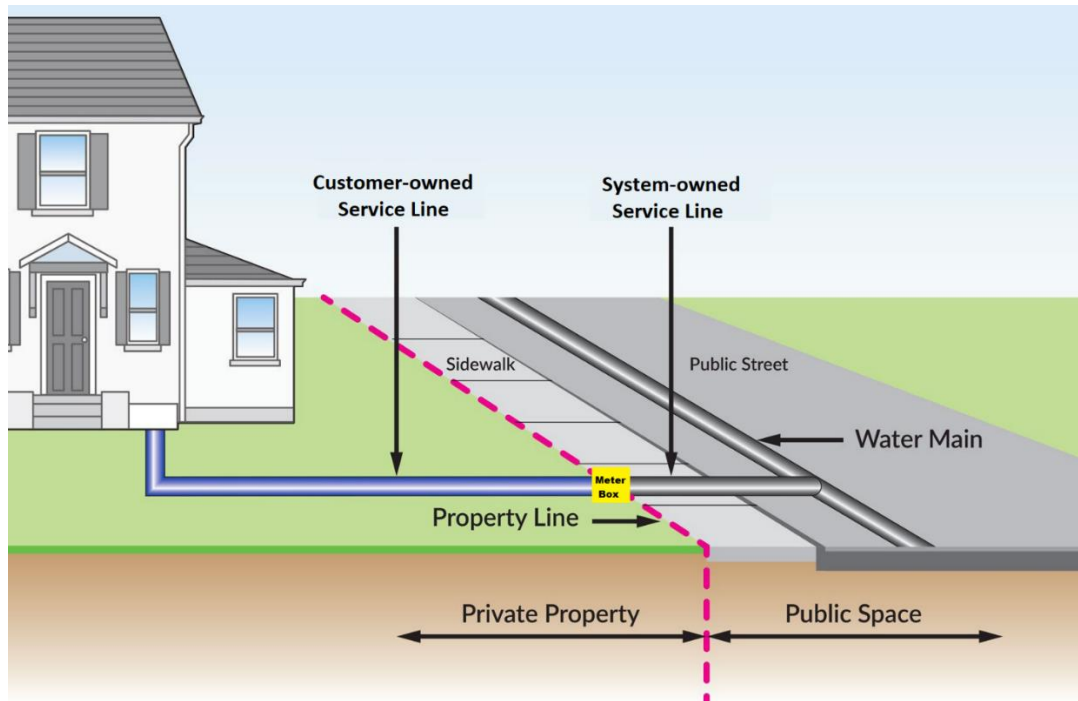
## **10. What does it mean if the City finds a lead or galvanized line during the inventory?**

We are not currently aware of any lead service lines connected to our system and do not expect to find any during the inventory. The State of Georgia has a small number of lead service lines. If a lead service line is found, this does not mean lead is in the water. If a lead service line is found, the City will notify the homeowner and the service line will be replaced.

The city will take samples in the area to make sure there is no lead in the water.

## 11. What is a service line?

A service line is defined as the pipe(s), fittings, and meter located between the water main and a customer's building inlet. The service line from the water main to the meter is owned by the water system (City of Hogansville) and the portion from the meter to the home is owned by the property owner. The diagram below shows an example.



## 12. What are the basic requirements for the lead service line (LSL) inventory?

Public water systems must conduct an inventory of all service lines, on both the water system side and the homeowner side of the meter, and to submit the results to Drinking Water Services (DWS) by October 16, 2024. Service line materials must, at a minimum, be classified as one of the following:

- Lead, where the service line is made of lead.
- Non-lead, where there is evidence to support this determination.
- Galvanized requiring replacement (GRR), where a galvanized service line is downstream of a current or former lead service line; or
- Lead status unknown, where there is no documentation or evidence to classify the material type.

### **13. How will the customer know about the inventory outcome of their service?**

Water systems with lead, GRR, or lead status unknown services lines must provide notification to people served by these lines within 30 days after completing the initial inventory. For new customers, the notice must be provided at the time-of-service initiation. The notification must be repeated annually until the entire service line is no longer a lead, GRR, or lead status unknown service line. Delivery must be by mail or another MDE-approved method. All notifications must include the following:

- A statement that the service line material is lead, GRR, or lead status unknown.
- Information on the health effects of lead.
- Steps to minimize exposure in drinking water.

### **14. What is the city going to do with the information if you locate lines that are lead or galvanized requiring replacement (GRR)?**

The City's first goal is to meet the current requirements of the LCRR that is rapidly approaching. As stated in other FAQ's this is part of federal mandates and not specific to Hogansville and it is happening nationwide. It is also anticipated that the EPA will issue a Lead and Copper Rule Improvements. The EPA is still preparing the LCRI and will issue the new regulation before the LCRR's initial compliance date: October 16, 2024. However, it is our goal to apply for Georgia Environment Finance Authority (GEFA) funds that might offset the expense of replacing and improving the system. It should be noted that there is no guarantee that the city will be successful in our application for financial assistance from GEFA.

### **15. What are the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI)?**

The exact contents of the LCRI aren't yet released, but **the EPA has described four key focus areas for the regulation:**

- Replacing all lead service lines (LSL)
- Improving lead sampling
- Demystifying the "action" and "trigger" levels for water systems and reconsidering the necessity of the "trigger" level
- Ensuring equitable Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR)

The EPA has provided little detail on the specific requirements that will achieve these objectives.