

Lead Strategies Update

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September 14, 2022



Agenda

- ◆ Background/Austin's history
- ◆ EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revisions
- ◆ Lead Service Line Inventory
- ◆ Federal Funding for Lead Related Work
- ◆ Additional Requirements: School and Child Care Facility Education and Sampling



EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR)



- ◆ **Goal:** Further reduce exposure to lead in drinking water
- ◆ Final LCRR regulations issued on January 15, 2021
- ◆ Placed under federal review until December 16, 2021, when made effective
- ◆ Current LCRR compliance date for water systems: **October 16, 2024**
 - Complete Lead Service Line Inventory
 - Begin mandatory public education activities and coordination of lead sampling for schools & childcare facilities over five-year period
- ◆ EPA is preparing Lead and Copper Rule Improvement to be released prior to October 2024



Lead Service Line Inventory

- 💧 Identify water service line materials
 - Includes public and private service line
- 💧 Categorize service line material
 - Non-lead
 - Lead
 - Lead Status Unknown
 - Galvanized Requiring Replacement
- 💧 Complete by October 16, 2024 and submit to TCEQ
- 💧 **AW Goal:** All service lines in “non-lead” category



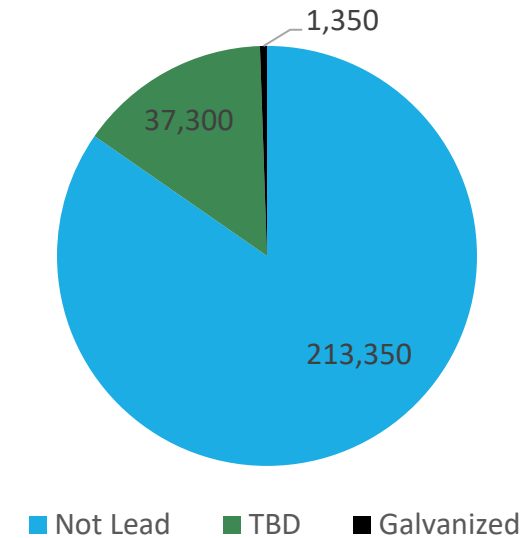
Lead Service Line Inventory

💧 Meters in AW's System

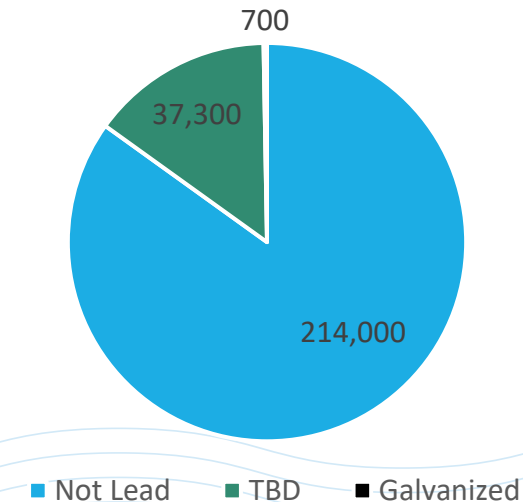
- Total – 252,000
- Non-lead due to age – 196,000
- Non-lead due to field investigation – 17,350
- Galvanized – 1,350
- Still to be field investigated – 37,300

💧 On track to be complete by late 2023/
early 2024

Public Side Materials



Private Side Materials



Federal Funding for Lead Related Work

- 💧 Funding allotted in the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)
- 💧 AW submitted the galvanized service replacement program to Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for funding, but the project was not selected.
- 💧 AW continuously analyzes projects for potential DWSRF funding.
- 💧 AW is tracking costs for developing inventory, future school and childcare sampling, and potential galvanized service replacements.



School & Child Care Facility Activities



3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities

A Training, Testing, and Taking Action Approach

Revised Manual



Regulatory requirements beginning as of October 16, 2024:

- 💧 Provide lead education materials to all schools and licensed childcare facilities
 - Health risk information
 - EPA's 3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water Toolkit
- 💧 Coordinate and schedule for lead sampling of facilities between Oct. 2024 – Oct. 2029
 - Required for all elementary schools and childcare facilities
 - Upon request for secondary schools
 - Not required for buildings constructed after 2013
 - Facilities can decline sampling activity
 - 20% of elementary schools and childcare facilities per year
 - 5 samples per school, 2 samples per childcare facility
- 💧 AW provides sampling instructions, bottles, lab analysis, and reporting of results
 - School/facility staff can collect samples
 - Procedures based on EPA's 3Ts guidance



School & Child Care Facility Activities



3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities

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AW has previously researched the water lines serving schools and childcare facilities and found no lead piping

In the meantime, AW is:

- 💧 Available as a resource for information and guidance for facilities
- 💧 Compiling a list of schools and childcare facilities served
- 💧 Developing a communication plan for engaging stakeholders
- 💧 Creating education and guidance materials
- 💧 Planning for staffing resources
- 💧 Remaining in compliance with current lead regulations
 - Most recent round of compliance sampling in 2021 had a lead 90th percentile value of 0.0 mg/L
- 💧 Free voluntary program launched by TCEQ in September 2022
 - Open to all schools and childcare facilities
 - Parents and community members can nominate



Customer Requested Lead Sampling



- Information available at:
www.austintexas.gov/lead
- Includes contact information to request testing.

Summary

- 💧 AW customers are at very low risk of exposure to lead through water:
 - Lack of lead services in AW's system and in private plumbing
 - AW's treatment and water characteristics
- 💧 AW is well positioned to be in compliance with the LCRR ahead of schedule:
 - Currently providing testing as-requested in addition to required routine testing
 - Service line inventory well underway
 - No need for lead service line replacement program (replace as found)
 - Preparing for school and childcare facility sampling program now

