



## City of Milwaukee Lead Service Line Replacement Program

Milwaukee Code of Ordinances [§ 225-22.5](#) requires a full replacement of the lead service line, from the water main to the curb stop (city-owned) and from the curb stop to the meter (customer-owned) in the following situations:

**Child Care Facilities.** A licensed group child-care center, a licensed family day care center, or a certified child-care home.

**Emergencies.** A leak on either the customer-owned section or the city-owned section of the lead service line.

**Planned Projects.** When the City replaces the city-owned section for any reason, such as water main replacement projects or road reconstruction projects.

Milwaukee Water Works offers water sampling prior to and following each lead service line replacement and conducts “find and fix” investigations if lead concentrations at the tap remain high following the replacement.

### Who pays for the Lead Service Line (LSL) replacement when City ordinance requires it?

The average total cost to replace an LSL is about \$9,600 (the average price fluctuates from year to year). The public side (from the water main to the curb) costs about \$4800 and the private side (from the curb to the water meter inside a home) costs about \$4800.

#### For required LSL replacements:

- A cost-share for the private side (the city pays 2/3 of the average, owner pays 1/3 of the average) is available for properties with 1-4 units, but only if the property owner elects to use a city-approved contractor to do the work.
- Effective March 1, 2023, the cost-share paid by property owners for the private side is \$1,592.
- The owner can pay their share of the cost all at once, or as a special assessment over 10 years (about \$159 per year, plus interest) if they prefer.
- In addition to paying 2/3 of the private side cost, the City pays 100% of the public side.

#### For voluntary, owner-initiated LSL replacements:

- If a property owner decides to replace a lead service line when ordinance does not require it, the owner must hire a licensed contractor.
- The property owner pays 100% of the cost of the private side (about \$4800 on average).
- The city pays 100% of the public side (about \$4800 on average).

For questions about the risks from lead in water, and more information about the lead service line replacement program, visit [milwaukee.gov/water/WaterQuality/LeadandWater](https://milwaukee.gov/water/WaterQuality/LeadandWater)