



Village of Union Grove - Water Utility
925 15th Ave.
Union Grove, WI 53182
(262) 878-1818

03/17/2025

RE: Important information about your water service - Union Grove Waterworks was Unsuccessful in Developing an Initial Service Line Inventory That Met All Federal Requirements

Dear Village of Union Grove Resident,

Union Grove Waterworks remains focused on protecting the health of every household in our community. This notice contains important information about your water service. Please share this information with anyone who drinks and/or cooks using water at this property.

Following the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 2021 Federal Lead and Copper Rule Revisions, an initiative to remove lead from public water systems, Union Grove Waterworks is required to develop and make publicly available an initial inventory of service lines and their material connected to our distribution system, to be completed by October 16th, 2024. The inventory must identify the service line materials as Lead, Galvanized Requiring Replacement (GRR), lead-status unknown, non-lead, or unknown. Identifying and ultimately removing lead and GRR service lines is an important way to protect public health.

On February 28th, 2025, Union Grove Waterworks received a notice of Federal Service Line Inventory Violation Warning letter issued by the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), notifying Union Grove Waterworks of a service line material inventory violation. As our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

What happened?

Union Grove Waterworks submitted an initial Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) Inventory, public accessibility and completeness verification documents to the DNR on October 14th, 2024. The inventory was completed using a combination of data collected by third-party inspection spreadsheets, utility construction records, utility Meter Card files and physical inspections.

The DNR conducted a review of Union Grove Waterworks inventory, public accessibility and completeness verification documents and determined that Union Grove Waterworks inventory as submitted was not in compliance with the federal service line inventory requirements of 40 CFR § 141.84(a). The inventory needs to be completed in a very specific manner, with documentation or visual inspection proof of each service line material, and this was not completed in a manner that fulfilled all the federal requirements.

What is Union Grove Waterworks doing to correct the violation?

Union Grove Waterworks is working with our engineers on corrective action measures to convert the third-party inventory spreadsheet that was used into a spreadsheet format adopted by the DNR. Once completed,



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Union Grove Waterworks and our engineers will work meticulously to review the spreadsheet for technical accuracy to meet the reporting requirements set forth by the DNR, and an updated inventory will be made publicly accessible. The DNR did not provide a requirement for when corrections need to be completed however, Union Grove Waterworks is committed to completing the work expeditiously and anticipates reaching compliance before June 30th, 2025.

What should I do as the water customer?

An alternative water source is not necessary. Union Grove Waterworks has not encountered lead service lines to date through normal day-to-day operations. However, premise plumbing and fixtures inside your home or building may contribute lead into drinking water.

Listed below are some steps you can take to reduce your exposure to lead:

- Learn what your service line and premise plumbing material is. Contact Union Grove Waterworks at (262) 878-1818, or email at utilities@vi.uniongrove.wi.gov, or contact a licensed plumber to determine if the pipe that connects your home to the water main (called a service line), or plumbing inside your home is made from lead, galvanized, or other material(s). Additionally, you can find information online, "Protect Your Tap": A quick check for lead using the EPA's online step by step guide to learn how to find lead pipes in your home - www.epa.gov/pyt.
- If you have been identified as having a lead or GRR service line and are using a filter, use your filter properly. Using a filter can reduce lead in drinking water. If you use a filter, make sure you use a filter certified to remove lead. Read the directions to learn how to properly install and use your cartridge and when to replace it. Using the cartridge after it has expired can make it less effective at removing lead. Do not run hot water through the filter.
- Clean your aerator. Regularly remove and clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator). Sediment, debris, and lead particles can collect in your aerator. If lead particles are caught in the aerator, lead can get into your water.
- Remember, boiling water does not remove lead from water.
- If you have been identified as having a lead or GRR service line, run your water. The more time water has been sitting in pipes, the more lead it may contain. Before drinking, flush your home's pipes by running the tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or doing a load of dishes. The amount of time to run the water will depend on whether your home has a lead service line or not, and the length of the lead service line.
- Have your water tested. Contact a licensed plumber to have your water tested and to learn more about the lead levels in your drinking water.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home or building, and the health effects of lead,



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visit the EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/lead> or, contact your health care provider.

What does this mean?

Service line inventories are the foundation from which water systems take action to address a significant source of lead in drinking water. Establishing an inventory of service line materials and identifying the location of lead and GRR service lines is a key step in getting them replaced and protecting public health. Typically, lead enters water supplies by leaching from lead pipes, brass faucets, plumbing with leaded solder, and other plumbing components containing lead. In homes with lead pipes that connect the home to the water main, also known as lead services lines, these pipes are typically the most significant source of lead in the water. Lead pipes are more likely to be found in older cities and homes built before 1986. Service lines made of galvanized iron or steel that are (or were previously) downstream of lead service lines are classified as galvanized requiring replacement (GRR) because galvanized service lines that are or ever were downstream from an LSL can adsorb lead and contribute to lead in drinking water. Identifying and ultimately removing lead and GRR service lines is an important way to protect public health.

Health effects of lead

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by:

Village of Union Grove - Water Utility
Public Water System ID: 25202001
925 15th Ave
Union Grove, WI 53182

Respectfully submitted,

Casey Stratton
Utilities Supervisor