

## How we plan to replace more than 64,000 lead service lines in 15 years

Before Denver Water developed its Lead Reduction Program, about 1,000 lead water service lines in the service area were replaced every year as they were found by our crews during regular maintenance projects or when owners decided to redevelop their property. At that pace, it would take more than 60 years to replace the estimated 64,000 to 84,000 lead service lines in our service area.

Through the Lead Reduction Program, Denver Water can accelerate the pace and replace about 5,000 lead service lines a year. At that pace, it will take 15 years, until 2035, to replace them all. This effort is complicated by the fact that property owners — not Denver Water — own these water service lines, much like a homeowner owns the driveway that connects to the public street. Details about the material of an individual property's service line are inconsistent and scattered among a variety of sources. But as part of the Lead Reduction Program, Denver Water is developing a comprehensive inventory showing the location of known and suspected lead service lines in our service area using property records, water quality tests and visual inspection of service lines.

Denver Water is using this inventory and a sophisticated model, both of which are constantly being updated with new information, to guide decisions about where to look for lead service lines and the timing of replacing these lines. During the late summer of every year, Denver Water will use the model to identify proposed work areas for the following year.

The model prioritizes replacement areas based on several factors, including:

- The likelihood that lead service lines are in a given area.
- How many properties in a given area are identified as either having or likely to have lead service lines.
- Identification of the presence of health impacts associated with lead (e.g. elevated blood lead levels).
- The number of critical facilities (e.g. childcare facilities, schools) identified as likely to have lead service lines.
- The potential to coordinate replacement work with other efforts to minimize or avoid multiple disruptions to the same community.
- Census information and other studies that can be used to identify areas where the population is at higher risk for negative health consequences from potential lead exposure (e.g. children and expecting families, median income below the federal poverty level).

Based on this analysis, Denver Water will be targeting specific lead service line replacements in the following neighborhoods in 2020:

- Baker/Lincoln Park
- Cole
- Clayton
- East Colfax
- Congress Park/City Park
- West Washington Park/Speer
- Whittier

In addition to replacing lead service lines in these neighborhoods, Denver Water is deploying crews to replace lead service lines at critical facilities, including schools, day care centers and other locations, and continue the work needed to expand and improve the location inventory.

This approach, which allows for the incorporation of new, updated information gathered from multiple sources, when combined with proper filter use by the people enrolled in the program, will provide maximum protection to the public as Denver Water replaces the estimated 64,000-84,000 lead service lines over 15 years.

### **Where can I go to ask questions and get more information?**

You can call Denver Water at 303-893-2444, visit [denverwater.org/Lead](https://denverwater.org/Lead) or email [Lead@denverwater.org](mailto:Lead@denverwater.org).