



TOWN OF TISBURY
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REPLACEMENT OF LEAD WATER SERVICE LINES REGULATION
(adopted November 14, 2023)

Whereas, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead is persistent, and it can bioaccumulate in the body over time.

Whereas, Young children, infants, and fetuses are particularly vulnerable to lead because the physical and behavioral effects of lead occur at lower exposure levels in children than in adults. A dose of lead that would have little effect on an adult can have a significant effect on a child. In children, low levels of exposure have been linked to damage to the central and peripheral nervous system, learning disabilities, shorter stature, impaired hearing, and impaired formation and function of blood cells.

Whereas, EPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20 percent or more of a person's total exposure to lead. Infants who consume mostly mixed formula can receive 40 percent to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing.

Whereas, Lead can accumulate in our bodies over time, where it is stored in bones along with calcium. During pregnancy, lead is released from bones as maternal calcium and is used to help form the bones of the fetus. This is particularly true if a woman does not have enough dietary calcium. Lead can also cross the placental barrier exposing the fetus to lead. This can result in serious effects to the mother and her developing fetus, including reduced growth of the fetus and premature birth. Lead can also be transmitted from mother to baby through breast milk.

Whereas, Lead is also harmful to adults. Adults exposed to lead can suffer from cardiovascular effects, increased blood pressure and incidence of hypertension, decreased kidney function and reproductive problems in both men and women.

Therefore, the Tisbury Board of Health requires that existing lead water service lines be replaced whenever a property within the Town of Tisbury is sold or transferred.

Prior to transfer of ownership and the establishment of a new customer account the Tisbury Water Works must certify that the existing water service line is non-lead as defined by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In the event the service line is lead or galvanized requiring replacement, the property owner must enter into a contract for replacement of the line on their property within 6 months of property transfer.

This regulation is adopted by the Tisbury Board of Health as authorized by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 111, Section 31 and applies to all properties within the Town of Tisbury sold or transferred on or after July 1, 2024.

