

# Lead in your tap water

We make sure the water leaving our treatment works is of the best quality in the country. But if it travels through lead pipes, small amounts can end up in the water you use and drink.

We're replacing lead pipes throughout our network, but we're asking you to check inside your home for lead pipes too – particularly if it was built before 1970.

This leaflet explains how to test for lead pipes, and what to do if you think you've found them in your home.



## Why are lead pipes a problem?

You might not think that drinking water containing very small amounts of lead could cause too much of a problem. But if you carry on drinking the water over time, it will build up in your body and become harmful.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) advises there's no level of exposure to lead without harmful effects. This is particularly important if it's young children or those who are pregnant who are regularly drinking the water, but lead can also have an affect on adults.

Lead levels in water can increase when work's being carried out at or near your property, as the vibrations disturb the pipes. If work's been done at or near your home, please make sure you run your taps for a full 10 minutes to flush the pipes out. You should continue to run your taps for two minutes every time you need to use the water for drinking or cooking purposes.

## How to check if your pipes are made of lead

Each home is different. Start by looking at your pipes in the cupboards under your kitchen sink or stairs – this is also where you would normally find your stop tap.

- 1 Find the pipe leading to the kitchen tap.
- 2 Unpainted lead pipes will be dark grey or black, and their joints will look swollen.
- 3 Scrape the pipes gently with a coin. If they're lead, shiny silver strips will appear.
- 4 Tapping a lead pipe with a metal object will produce a dull thud rather than a clear ringing.
- 5 Still not sure? You can ask us to test your water for traces of lead. Call our Lead Advice Line on **03450 703 445**.

## You can reduce how much lead is in your water

### Run your cold water tap for a couple of minutes

If water's been stood in your pipes for a few hours or more, run your tap before using it for drinking or cooking.

### Use cold tap water for drinking or cooking

Hot tap water will dissolve more lead than cold water, so always use water from your cold tap (after letting it run for a few minutes) rather than the hot.

## Did you know?



Boiling your water might sterilise it – but it won't remove lead.

## Who is responsible for which pipe?

We look after the pipes in the road leading up to the boundary of your property. The pipes inside that boundary, including the plumbing inside your home, are your responsibility.

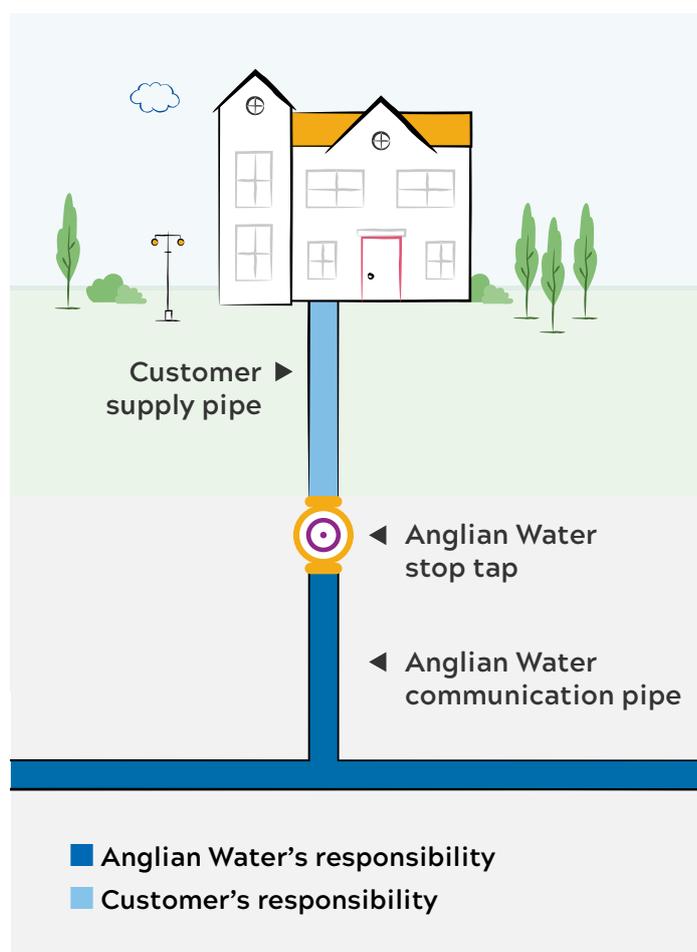
If you replace your pipes, and let us know, we'll make sure the pipe leading to your home isn't lead either.

If you rent, and you're worried about lead, we suggest you talk to your landlord.

Please make sure you're only using approved materials and a qualified plumber – find a plumber we've already approved at [anglianwater.co.uk/plumbers](http://anglianwater.co.uk/plumbers)

## Can I get help to replace my lead pipework?

If your household has a low income, your local council might be able to help cover the cost of replacing lead pipes. Please give them a call to find out more.



## Getting in touch

### Not sure if you have lead pipes?

Arrange a free lead test appointment at [anglianwater.co.uk/leadtest](http://anglianwater.co.uk/leadtest)

Call our Lead Advice Line on **03450 703 445**

### Need advice on replacing pipes?

Call our connections team on **03456 066 087**

Find out more at [anglianwater.co.uk/leadfacts](http://anglianwater.co.uk/leadfacts)

Find out more about how we keep your water healthy at [anglianwater.co.uk/water-quality](http://anglianwater.co.uk/water-quality) or call **03457 145 145** any time of day or night if you'd like to ask about anything else.