

# CHARLOTTE COUNTY UTILITIES DRINKING WATER NOTICE

## **Your home has a galvanized water service line. Your service line should be replaced.**

*This notice contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you or speak with someone who understands it.*

Dear Charlotte County Utilities Customer,

As part of the EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR), water utilities are required to document all water service line materials in their system and identify any potential lead or lead containing materials. Charlotte County Utilities' most recent service line inventory indicates that some or all of the water service materials between the water meter and your dwelling unit are "Galvanized Requiring Replacement" material. This material is not made of lead but may have built up lead deposits over time if there was a previous upstream lead service line; and could be a source of lead in your drinking water. Please note, at the time of the recent service line inventory, the service line upstream of the meter, was non-lead material.

*The EPA has defined "Galvanized Requiring Replacement" to mean where a galvanized service line is or was at any time downstream of a lead service line or is currently downstream of a "Lead Status Unknown" service line. If the water system is unable to demonstrate that the galvanized service line was never downstream of a lead service line, it must presume there was an upstream lead service line.*

Charlotte County purchased the utility from General Development in the 1990s. Charlotte County Utilities cannot obtain records before the purchase date that can accurately demonstrate that your galvanized service line was never downstream of a lead service line. By EPA's definition, Charlotte County Utilities must then presume that your galvanized service line was upstream of a lead service line.

### **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.

### **Steps you can take to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water.**

- **Obtain an ANSI (American National Standards Institute)/NSF (National Sanitation Foundation) Certified home water treatment device** that is certified to remove lead. An ANSI/NSF Certified treatment device is an effective way to reduce lead exposures. A licensed plumber is recommended to perform this work.
- **Run your water to flush out lead.** Lead levels increase over time as water sits in lead-containing plumbing materials and regular non-consumptive water usage (e.g., laundry, bathing) in the building can reduce lead levels in drinking water. Consumers served by lead service lines may need to flush water for longer periods of time.
- **Use only cold, fresh water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula.** Run the water for at least 1 minute or until after it turns cold.

- **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water does not remove lead.
- **Clean your aerator.** Regularly 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. A licensed plumber can assist you if you are unable to perform this work.
- **Identify and replace plumbing fixtures** containing lead and any copper piping with lead solder. A licensed plumber is recommended to perform this work.
- **Have your child's blood tested for lead. Children are a higher risk group of the health effects of lead. If you would like to have your child tested, you may contact your health care provider, or local state health department here: Florida Department of Health – Charlotte County 941-624-7200**
- **Have your water tested for lead. Visit this link for a list of water testing Laboratories Certified by the Florida Department of Health: [tinyurl.com/DOH-Labs](http://tinyurl.com/DOH-Labs)**

## Opportunities to Replace Lead Service Lines

Charlotte County Utilities is developing a Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) Program with the goal of removing all the galvanized service lines under Charlotte County Utilities ownership in the water system. Consumers may view the **Charlotte County Public Drinking Water Service Line Replacement Plan** at this website: [tinyurl.com/CCU-Replacement-Plan](http://tinyurl.com/CCU-Replacement-Plan)

Charlotte County Utilities intends to replace the portion of the galvanized service line under Charlotte County Utilities ownership (from the water main to the water meter). If you as the homeowner do not replace your portion of the service line (from the water meter to your home), you may experience blockages, leaks, discolored water and a temporary increase in lead levels in your drinking water; we strongly recommend having your portion of the service line replaced when Charlotte County Utilities replaces the service line portion under their ownership.

For FDEP information on Lead in Drinking Water see <https://floridadep.gov/water/source-drinking-water/content/monitoring-lead-and-copper-florida-drinking-water>

Please notify Charlotte County Utilities if you disagree with the service line material categorization in our service line inventory, using the contact information below.

For more information, contact Sarah Hiscock at 941-661-6257 or [Sarah.Hiscock@CharlotteCountyFL.gov](mailto:Sarah.Hiscock@CharlotteCountyFL.gov).

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water at this address, especially those who may not have received this notice directly and the owner of the property.*

This notice is being sent to you by Charlotte County Utilities PWS ID#: 5084100 Date distributed 11/1/24