

Don't let all the construction on your street result in a
MISSED OPPORTUNITY!

You have an opportunity to save significant money, improve your home, and protect the children who live there now and into the future. ***Now is the time*** to replace your water service line, swapping old lead pipe for a newer, safer alternative.

By replacing your service line in coordination with the street repairs, ***you can save hundreds of dollars!***

Why is Healthy Homes promoting full-replacement of lead water service lines?

While we know that old, lead-based paint and lead in soil are the primary risk for children living in Grand Rapids' older neighborhoods, we also know that lead in drinking water can contribute to raising a child's overall lead level. There are plenty of validated studies that inform us that leaded pipes can raise the lead level in drinking water, and therefore we recommend replacing lead pipes whenever possible. ***Now is that time***, as the cost for replacing your portion of the lead service line will ***never*** be lower. Furthermore, that lead service line has been underground for decades, and will need replacement at sometime in the future.

The Healthy Homes Coalition wants to make it very clear that this campaign to educate neighbors is not suggesting that the work the City and its contractors are doing will result in children being lead poisoned. ***It is about the fact that you have the opportunity to do the right thing for the children who will live in your home for the years to come and at a significant cost savings.***

Our primary motivation is the proven fact that *partial* lead service line replacement does very little to protect children's health. The health benefit is only realized through *full* service line replacement, which includes replacing the service from your property line to the house. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention cites ***full service line replacement*** as the ***only*** effective way to reduce the risk.

The Healthy Homes Coalition also wants you to be aware that in some cities where partial service line replacement was undertaken and follow-up testing conducted, lead levels in the water have been shown to spike for a short period of time after replacement (EPA, CDC, AWWA). In these communities, residents were encouraged to use filters for water that was to be consumed. More on water filters and lead can be found at www.nsf.org/consumer/drinking_water/dw_treatment.asp.

The bottom line is that you can save money and protect children's health by doing replacement at the same time that your street is dug up.

If financing repairs is a concern, we encourage you to visit your local lender or contact the City of Grand Rapids about their "10-Pay Plan" which offers loans re-payable over ten years.

For more information about this issue or help on deciding what to do, contact the Healthy Homes Coalition at (616) 241-3300 or info@healthyhomescoalition.org.