



# FACT SHEET Updated Information on Lead and Drinking Water

## Lead Goosenecks are a potential issue for some homes built prior to the late 1940s

### Bremerton Water Customers Can Check for Lead "Gooseneck" Pipes with New Online Tool



Recent news reports have brought lead issues to the attention of water customers. Bremerton's water sources are lead free, the system complies with all drinking water regulations, and corrosion control treatment, which reduces the leaching of lead into the water, has been in place since 1999.

There are no lead customer service lines in Bremerton's system and most of the older customer water services in Bremerton were connected to the water main with copper pipe. However, prior to the late 1940s short pieces of lead pipe (about 16" long) were sometimes used on galvanized service lines to connect the water main to the water meter. These pipe segments often took the shape of a goose's neck, and are referred to as "lead goosenecks." They are difficult to locate because they are underground, usually under the street, and their locations were not routinely documented. Above is a photo of a lead gooseneck and below is a diagram of where they are located on the service line. Galvanized water service lines on the customer side of the meter do not pose this issue.

Locations with the greatest likelihood of a lead gooseneck are those with galvanized service lines from the distribution main to the meter built 1949 or earlier connected to a water main installed 1949 or earlier, mainly to the east of Naval Avenue in West Bremerton. Only some older services used galvanized pipe with a lead gooseneck for the flexible connection - most did not need a connector or used copper. Only about 300 galvanized services remain in Bremerton's system and of those, only about 50 are estimated to have a lead gooseneck.



Bremerton customers can check for the possibility of a lead gooseneck on their water service with a new online tool at [www.BremertonWA.gov/PbGN](http://www.BremertonWA.gov/PbGN). We are currently updating our records with best available information from archived documents from the past 90 years and field checks.

Bremerton has upgraded hundreds of services over the years and continues to replace any lead goosenecks encountered with a new plastic service line on the city side of the meter. Long-time city water maintenance workers have not encountered lead goosenecks in the Manette, Marine Drive, or Rocky Point areas.

If your water service may have a lead gooseneck or if you are concerned about your water, you can flush your cold water tap for two minutes before using the water for drinking or cooking after periods of six hours or more when the water has not been used at all. Bathing or showering is not a concern, and a shower will effectively flush the service line. Bremerton's website will be updated as more information becomes available.

Learn more about your water at [www.ci.bremerton.wa.us](http://www.ci.bremerton.wa.us) or the City of Bremerton Customer Response Line (360) 473-5920.