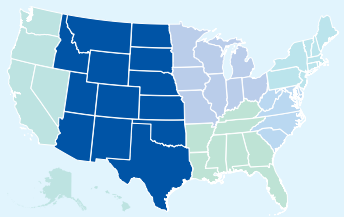


Lead Reduction Program Proactively Removes Customer Owned Lead Water Pipes at No Direct Cost

Southwest and Mountain Region



Overview

In Colorado, Denver Water is undertaking a 15-year Lead Reduction Program to remove an estimated 64,000 to 84,000 customer-owned lead service lines within its service area. The Lead Reduction Program provides a holistic and permanent alternative treatment approach that is as effective at protecting public health, more efficient in reducing lead exposure, less harmful to the environment, and more equitable in its public health benefits than implementing orthophosphate treatment for corrosion control. It is also more cost effective with fewer regional risks. Costs for the Lead Reduction Program will be covered through water rates, as the utility does with other water quality treatments.

Notable Features

- **The program has robust stakeholder engagement.** The Lead Reduction Program has included regulatory agencies, downstream water and wastewater interests, and watershed and environmental groups to create a holistic approach that reduces lead in drinking water without affecting the downstream water quality.
- **It provides lead service line replacement at no direct cost for customers.** While Denver Water delivers lead-free water to customers, lead can get into drinking water as it passes through customer-owned water service lines and indoor plumbing. The program replaces lead service lines with copper at no direct cost to customers who own the lines.

- **It has holistic planning and implementation.** The Lead Reduction Program has five main elements including the development of a lead service line inventory to identify and track lead service lines; a filter program; lead service line replacement program; corrosion control treatment with pH/alkalinity increase; and significant communications, outreach, and education to the entire service area.

People Involved

A large interdisciplinary team of staff across Denver Water supports this major organizational initiative:

- Meg Trubee, Public Affairs Manager, Lead Reduction Program.
- Jim Lochhead, CEO and Manager.
- Jessica Brody, General Counsel.
- Alexis Woodrow, Lead Reduction Program Manager.
- Nicole Poncelet-Johnson, Director of Water Quality and Treatment.
- Stacy Chesney, Director of Public Affairs.

Additional Resources

- www.denverwater.org/Lead.

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