



Village of Herscher

272 E 2nd St
Herscher, IL 60941
Phone: 815-426-2131 Fax: 815-426-2851
Office email: info@villageofherscher.com

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Village of Herscher Failed to Develop and Make Public an Initial Service Line Inventory

Our water system recently violated a drinking water requirement. As our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We were required to develop and make publicly available an initial inventory of service lines connected to our distribution system by October 16, 2024.

Our system failed to submit this initial inventory of service lines to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) by October 16, 2024. We were notified of this violation on July 2, 2025.

The inventory must identify the service line materials as lead, galvanized requiring replacement (GRR), lead-status unknown/unknown, or non-lead. Identifying and ultimately removing lead and GRR service lines is an important way to protect public health.

Potential Lead Risk

There is the potential your service line could be made of lead or contain lead solder. People living in homes with service lines that are made of or contain lead have an increased risk of exposure to lead from their drinking water.

The populations most vulnerable to lead exposure include:

Children and pregnant women are particularly vulnerable to lead exposure in drinking water. Lead can cause serious health issues, including learning disabilities and developmental problems in children, and can affect the health of pregnant women, potentially leading to low birth weight and other complications in their unborn children. Additionally, older adults with health conditions are also at risk due to the cumulative effects of lead exposure over time.

What should I do?

Listed below are some steps you can take to reduce your exposure to lead:

- Learn what your service line material is composed of. Contact us at info@villageofherscher.com or speak with a licensed plumber to determine if the pipe

that connects your home to the water main is made from lead, galvanized steel, or other materials. Or to see if lead solder is used in your plumbing connections.

- Check the EPA's online tool for finding lead pipes in your home:
<https://www.epa.gov/pyt>
- Learn about construction in your neighborhood and what service line materials that were used.
- Clean debris from your sink's aerator(s).
- Use cold water for drinking, brushing teeth, cooking, and making baby formula.
- To reduce lead exposure in drinking water, it is recommended to run cold water for 1-2 minutes before using it for drinking or cooking if you have an unknown, lead, or galvanized service line or home plumbing materials.
- Have your water tested for lead levels.

Alternative Water Supplies

Currently, alternative water supplies (e.g., bottled water) are not required.

What does this mean?

Service line inventories are essential for identifying and ultimately removing sources of lead from drinking water. Lead can leach from lead pipes, fixtures, and solder. In older homes, especially those built before 1986, lead service lines or galvanized steel that was previously connected to lead lines can be common. The action level of lead is 15ppb, this limit is set by the Environmental Protection agency. This level is established to protect public health by minimizing lead exposure through drinking water.

The Village of Herscher is currently working to complete the inventory and meet IEPA compliance standards. Identifying and removing lead and GRR lines is critical to protecting our residents' health and safety.

What is being done?

With your help, The Village of Herscher is actively working to identify, document, and report the material of all water service lines in our system. We are committed to finalizing this inventory and making it publicly accessible as soon as possible*.

For more information on reducing lead exposure or about the health effects of lead, visit:
<http://www.epa.gov/lead> or contact your health care provider.

For more information, please contact:

The Village of Herscher, Keith Witheft (ROIC)

Phone: 815-530-8017

Email: herscher@villageofherscher.com

Address: Village Hall, 272 E. 2nd Street, Herscher, IL 60941

* We hope to have all services identified by 12/31/2025 but delays may occur due to budgetary restraints.

Please share this information with all other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (e.g., people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice publicly or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by: Village of Herscher

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