



# **COLUMBIA WATER COMPANY**

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

### **Lead Service Line Replacement Information**

**ESTE INFORME CONTIENE INFORMACION IMPORTANTE ACERCA DE SU AGUA POTABLE. HAGA QUE ALGUIEN LO TRADUZCA PARA USTED, O HABLE CON ALGUIEN QUE LO ENTIENDA.**

Columbia Water Company is replacing your lead service line. This notice provides information you need to know regarding the replacement and why it is important.

The pipe that connects your household plumbing to the water main in the street is called a service line. Columbia Water Company is replacing your service line because it either contains lead, is galvanized iron/steel and was or is currently downstream of lead, or there is a lead gooseneck, pigtail or connector on your service line. Lead from your existing pipes can leach into the water you drink. While it's important for the long term quality of your drinking water to remove these lead pipes, studies have shown that when lead service lines are disturbed, in the short-term they can release lead for weeks or months after the disturbance. There are steps you can take to protect you and your family from exposure to lead in tap water which are explained below.

#### **What should I do?**

After the service line is returned to service but before using the water for consumption, remove and clean all faucet aerators, flush your service line and all internal plumbing by opening all taps and letting the water run for at least 30 minutes, and re-install the cleaned aerators.

To conserve water instead of simply running the water for 30 minutes, other household/non-potable water usage activities such as washing clothes, showering, flushing the toilet and running the dishwasher are effective methods of flushing the pipes.

After the initial flush, run the water for 3-5 minutes before using and use cold water for cooking and drinking to reduce your exposure to lead in the water.

In addition to flushing the lines, you are being provided with a pitcher filter that is certified to remove lead and six months of replacement cartridges. This filter may be used for water that will be used for drinking and cooking.

#### **Why should I do it?**

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 risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous systems problems.

For more information, please contact Columbia Water Company at 717-684-2188.