

Lead in your tap water

We make sure the water leaving our treatment works is of the best quality in the country. But if it travels through lead pipes, small amounts can end up in the water you use and drink.

We're replacing lead pipes throughout our network, but we're asking you to check inside your home for lead pipes too – particularly if it was built before 1970.

This leaflet explains how to test for lead pipes, and what to do if you think you've found them in your home.



Why are lead pipes a problem?

You might not think that drinking water containing very small amounts of lead could cause too much of a problem. But if you carry on drinking the water over time, it will build up in your body and become harmful.

Young children and pregnant women are particularly at risk of the effects of lead. That's why it's important you find out if your home has lead pipework. This is more likely if it was built before 1970, but your pipes might also be joined by lead solder if they were installed before 1987.

How to check if your pipes are made of lead

Each home is different. Start by looking at your pipes in the cupboards under your kitchen sink or stairs – this is also where you would normally find your stop tap.

- 1 Find the pipe leading to the kitchen tap.
- 2 Unpainted lead pipes will be dark grey or black, and their joints will look swollen.
- 3 Scrape the pipes gently with a coin. If they're lead, shiny silver strips will appear.
- 4 Tapping a lead pipe with a metal object will produce a dull thud rather than a clear ringing.
- 5 Still not sure? You can ask us to test your water for traces of lead. Call our Lead Advice Line on 0345 070 3445.

Got a question? Find out how to get in touch over the page.



You can reduce how much lead is in your water

Run your cold water tap for a couple of minutes

If water's been stood in your pipes for a few hours or more, run your tap before using it for drinking or cooking.

Use cold tap water for drinking or cooking

Hot tap water will dissolve more lead than cold water, so always use water from your cold tap (after letting it run for a few minutes) rather than the hot.

Did you know?



Boiling your water might sterilize it – but it won't remove lead.

Who is responsible for which pipe?

We look after the pipes in the road leading up to the boundary of your property. The pipes inside that boundary, including the plumbing inside your home, are your responsibility.

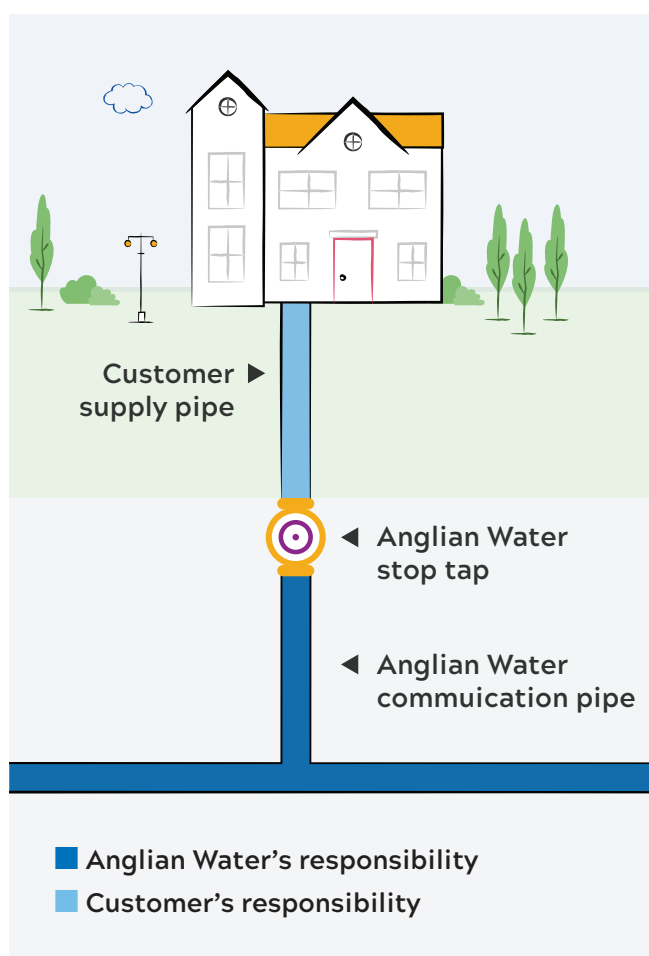
If you replace your pipes, and let us know, we'll make sure the pipe leading to your home isn't lead either.

If you rent, and you're worried about lead, we suggest you talk to your landlord.

Please make sure you're only using approved materials and a qualified plumber – find a plumber we've already approved at anglianwater.co.uk/plumbers

Can I get help to replace my lead pipework?

If your household has a low income, your local council might be able to help cover the cost of replacing lead pipes. Please give them a call to find out more.



Getting in touch

Not sure if you have lead pipes?

Arrange a free lead test appointment at anglianwater.co.uk/leadtest

Call our Lead Advice Line on **0345 070 3445**

Need advice on replacing pipes?

Call our connections team on **0345 60 66 087**

Find out more at anglianwater.co.uk/leadfacts

Find out more about how we keep your water healthy at anglianwater.co.uk/water-quality or call **03457 145 145** any time of day or night if you'd like to ask about anything else.