

EquiFlow Lead-Free Program FAQs

What is the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR)?

The Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) is a federal regulation enforced by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to keep drinking water safe. It limits how much lead and copper can be present in water and requires public water systems to look for potential sources of contamination. Lead can enter drinking water when older pipes or plumbing materials corrode. Even small amounts of lead can affect health, especially in infants, children, and pregnant individuals.

What are the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR)?

The EPA strengthened the original rule in 2021 to increase transparency and accelerate the removal of lead from water systems.

These revisions include:

- More rigorous testing at higher-risk locations such as schools and childcare centers
- Faster removal of lead service lines, with complete replacement required by 2031
- Improved sampling methods that better reflect actual water quality
- Prompt notification to residents when lead levels are elevated

What are the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI)?

The LCRI builds on the LCRR and places even greater emphasis on public health. Key improvements include:

- Expanded testing in vulnerable communities

- Detailed service line inventories that show where lead pipes remain
- Stronger public awareness and guidance on reducing lead exposure

These updates require cities across the country, including Westerly, to identify and replace remaining lead service lines.

How Does This Rule Affect Me?

If your home has a lead service line, you may be eligible for a replacement through programs supported by federal and state funding. The Town of Westerly's EquiFlow Lead-Free Program was created to make these replacements possible for homeowners at no cost.

How Can I Find Out If My Home Has a Lead Service Line?

Verification is the only way to confirm your service line material. You can:

- Complete a self-verification online by submitting a quick photo
- Schedule an in-person verification appointment

Verification is simple and takes only a few minutes. It is the first step in determining if your home qualifies for replacement.



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What Should I Do If I Am Concerned About Lead in My Drinking Water?

If you are concerned about lead, you can:

- **Participate in the EquiFlow Lead-Free Westerly Program** by verifying your service line material and filling out a Right of Entry (ROE) form.
- **Use a certified NSF/ANSI 53 or 58 water filter** for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula.
- **Let cold water run** for several minutes if it has been sitting in your pipes.
- **Avoid using hot tap water** for cooking and drinking, as it can contain higher levels of lead.

What Is Being Done to Replace Lead Service Lines in Westerly?

The EquiFlow Lead-Free Program is a partnership between the Town of Westerly and Community Infrastructure Partners (CIP). Together, they are identifying and replacing remaining lead service lines across the city. The program will replace approximately 2,000 lines in the upcoming construction seasons, beginning in 2026.

How Do I Participate in The EquiFlow Lead-Free Program?

To participate, residents must complete two steps:

- **Verify your service line material.** You may self-verify online or schedule an appointment.
- **Submit the Right of Entry Form (ROE).** This form gives permission for approved contractors to complete work on your property.

Once these steps are complete, the team can determine eligibility and prepare your home for future replacement scheduling.

What Happens If I Do Not Participate?

If you do not participate, your home cannot move forward with replacement through the EquiFlow Lead-Free Program. This means your property will be passed over during upcoming construction seasons, and you may need to coordinate and pay for the work on your own in the future.

Participation also helps Westerly identify where lead still exists and plan replacements in the neighborhoods that need them most.

Taking part protects your home and supports a lead-free future for the entire Westerly community.



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EQUIFLOW
Lead-Free Program
A City of Westerly & CIP Partnership