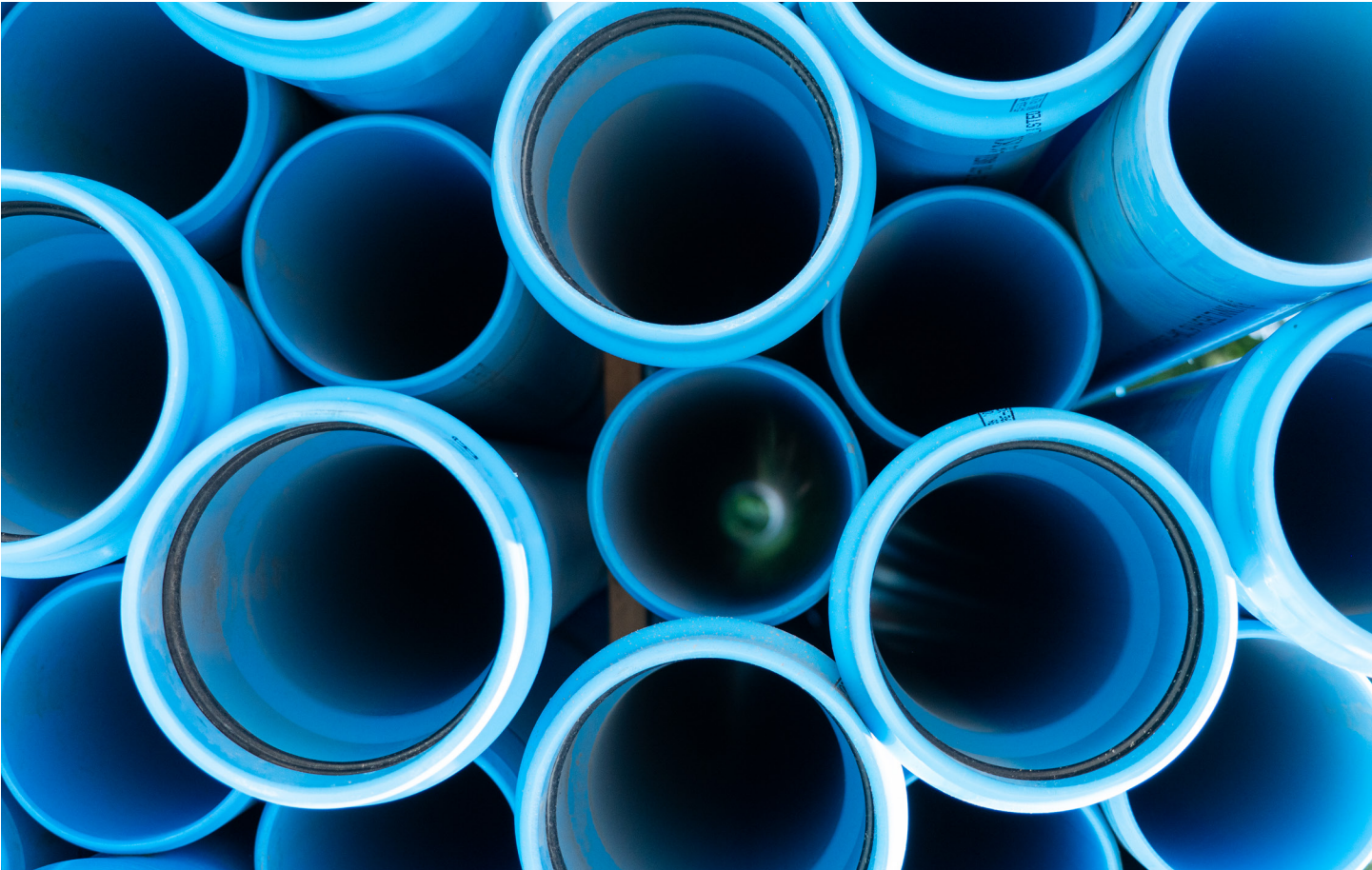




YOUR GUIDE TO GALVANIZED
WATER SERVICE LINES



REPLACEMENT PROCESS

STEP 1: INVESTIGATION

A crew will be out to locate any underground utilities and later (possibly several days), another crew will 'pothole,' or drill, a small hole near where the water service line attaches to the water main in the street to determine the service line material. Following the potholing, you will receive a door hanger letting you know the results and next steps.

What to Expect:

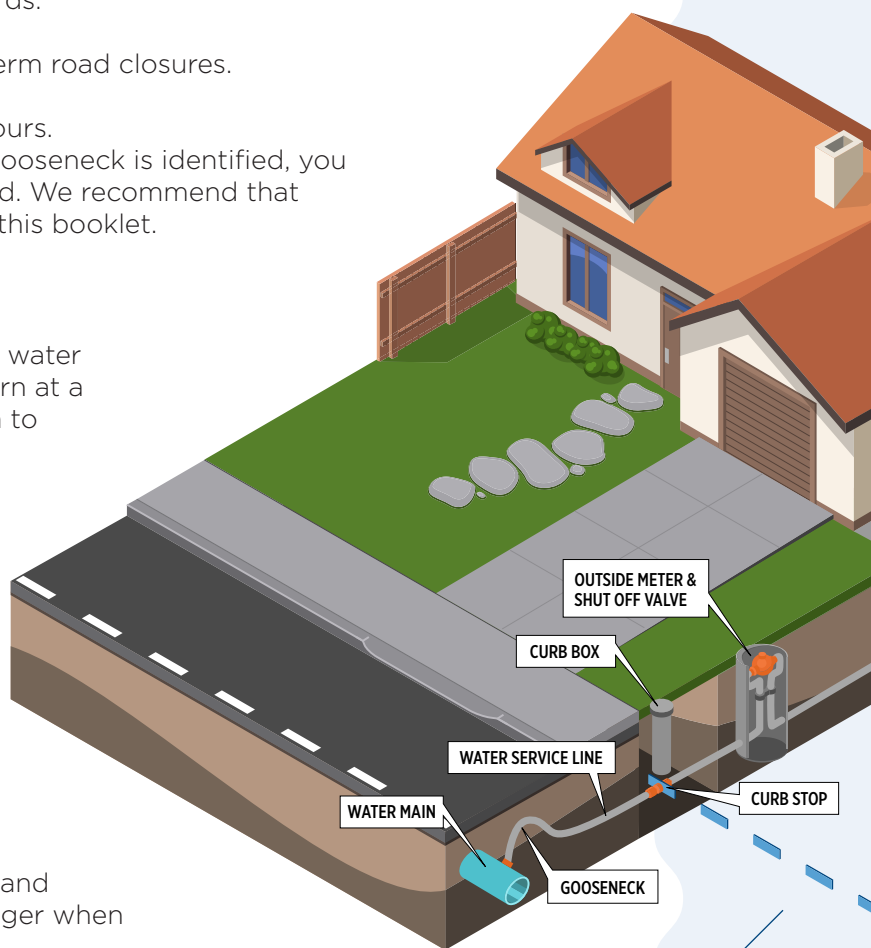
- Flags or paint in the road, on sidewalks or in yards.
- Crews in the area.
- Possible shifts in traffic patterns and/or short-term road closures.
- Noise.
- Potholing will take approximately one to two hours.
- If your service line is galvanized and/or a lead gooseneck is identified, you will receive a water filter certified to remove lead. We recommend that you follow the flushing precautions included in this booklet.

STEP 2: REPLACEMENT

If it is determined that you have a galvanized steel water service line and/or lead gooseneck, crews will return at a later time to replace the service line from the main to the curb stop at no direct cost to you.

What to Expect:

- The day before your water service is turned off, preparations will be made, including excavation of the service line at the water main and the curb stop.
- Your water service will be turned off from approximately 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. during the work. You will be given 48 hours' notice prior to the water shut-off unless there is an immediate need to shut off the water to repair the service.
- Typically, the work will be less than eight hours and we will notify you in person and/or by door hanger when water is turned back on.
- There may be large equipment or machinery and noise in the area.
- There may be disruption of landscape, which will be repaired within approximately four weeks of the completed work, weather pending.
- Possible shifts in traffic patterns and/or short-term road closures.
- Crews may be working from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday-Friday.
- You will need to flush your water service line once you have been notified that the work is complete (see page five).



Fort Collins Utilities' responsibility ends at curb stop.

STEP 3: RESTORATION

If landscaping is disturbed during the replacement, it will be restored at no direct cost to you within approximately four weeks of the completed replacement, weather pending. Landscape may take several months to reestablish, especially if work is done in the fall or winter.

LEAD AND COPPER RULE

Fort Collins Utilities is committed to providing high-quality, reliable, and safe drinking water to its customers. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets standards for treated drinking water and water provided by Utilities consistently surpasses those standards for purity. Water quality is continually monitored from source to tap and we take pride in being able to offer some of the best drinking water in the country.

The Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) was first issued by the EPA in 1991 as part of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is the primary agency responsible for implementing the SDWA in Colorado.

The LCR is designed to protect public health by minimizing lead and copper exposure in drinking water. In support of this goal, Utilities:

- Has a long-standing corrosion control program that reduces corrosion/eroding of water pipes by adjusting water pH and mineral content.
- Is continually updating our inventory of pipe materials in the distribution system.
- Routinely collects and tests tap water samples from sites that are most likely to have interior plumbing materials containing lead.
- Educates customers about lead in drinking water.



LEAD AND DRINKING WATER

There is effectively no lead in the drinking water provided by Fort Collins Utilities, though lead is a naturally occurring metal. Lead can enter drinking water when plumbing going to or inside a home that contains lead, including lead solder, corrodes or deteriorates. Although lead may be present in plumbing material, it does not mean elevated lead levels are present in the water.

There are no known full-lead water service lines in the Fort Collins Utilities service area. Some homes may have galvanized steel water service lines with lead goosenecks.

Studies have shown that lead goosenecks have little to no impact on lead levels in drinking water. However, you can take extra precaution and minimize the risk even further:

- **Flush your pipes.** Flush your pipes if water has been sitting in the service line for longer than six hours (first thing in the morning, coming home from work or vacation). Let the COLD water run until it turns noticeably colder, about two minutes. This water can be collected and used to water plants or landscapes. Flushing the toilet a few times, taking a shower and/or running a load of laundry would also be sufficient.
- **Use cold water.** Always use cold water to drink, cook, make coffee or baby formula. You cannot boil lead out of water.
- **Use a filter.** Install a water filter that is designed and certified to remove lead. The EPA recommends purchasing ANSI/NSF 42 and 53 approved water filters. If Utilities determines you have a galvanized water service line and/or a lead gooseneck, you will receive a filter certified to remove lead.
- **Replace aging fixtures.** Contact a licensed plumber to determine if any fixtures or pipes in your home or business contain lead.

SOURCES OF LEAD

- Lead-based paints (typically used in homes built before 1978)
- Toys and jewelry
- Candies imported from other countries or traditional home remedies
- Certain jobs or hobbies may involve lead-based products, like stained glass
- Copper pipe with lead solder*
- Faucets or other plumbing fixtures inside your home*
- Lead goosenecks (short sections of pipe that curve to connect water service lines to water mains)
- Lead service lines (Fort Collins Utilities has no known full-lead water service lines)

**The use of lead in potable plumbing was banned by the EPA in 1986.*

Lead can build up in the body over time. Children younger than six years old are most at risk due to their rapid rate of growth and ongoing brain development. Exposure to lead can cause damage to the brain, nervous system, red blood cells, and kidneys.

Lead also has the potential to cause lower IQs, hearing impairments, reduced attention span, hyperactivity, developmental delays, and poor classroom performance. Pregnant women and their fetuses are especially vulnerable to lead exposure since lead can significantly harm the fetus, causing lower birth weight and slowing normal mental and physical developments.



FLUSHING INSTRUCTIONS

FOLLOWING A SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT, IT IS IMPORTANT TO FLUSH YOUR SERVICE LINE.

Please follow the instructions below after your water service line replacement because lead particles and other debris can get trapped in your household plumbing. To minimize lead exposure, crews flush new service lines using an outside spigot. To protect your household, you should also flush indoor plumbing to reduce potential exposure to lead-containing particles and other debris that may have entered your pipes during the work.

1

Beginning with the lowest level of your home, one by one, fully open each faucet using cold water only, including sinks, bathtubs or showers, until all faucets are running in your home. Make sure that all water is draining properly from faucet locations.

2

Let the water run for at least 15 minutes at the last faucet opened, which should be on the highest level. (You may want to collect this water for plants or cleaning.)

3

After 15 minutes, turn off each faucet starting at the highest level.

4

Additionally, during this initial flush, consider removing and soaking the faucet's aerator/screen in vinegar to remove any residual particles.

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Over the next six months (after initial flush and service line replacement), when water has not been used for six or more hours, such as first thing in the morning or when getting home from work, flush cold water from the kitchen or any bathroom faucet for five minutes.

While the risk is low, it is best practice to continue using a water filter certified to remove lead for six months following the water service line replacement.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The **Safe Water Action Program (SWAP)** is a proactive approach to identifying and replacing galvanized water service lines and/or lead goosenecks within the Fort Collins Utilities service area.

fcgov.com/SWAP | swap@fcgov.com | 970-416-8032 | V/TDD 711



Auxiliary aids and services are available for persons with disabilities. V/TDD: 711