

LEAD SERVICE LINE MANAGEMENT DECISION TREE

A step-by-step decision guide to help you plan and execute your inventory.

The revised Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) mandates that public water systems conduct and maintain location-based Lead Service Line Inventories, in addition to developing Lead Service Line (LSL) Plans with replacement goals.

This is a big project with a lot of moving parts – we've broken down the various decisions that will make up this process. Walk through our decision tree to understand what steps your team needs to take at each stage of this process.

To dive deeper into launching your inventory, check out our [Service Line Inventory Guide](#).

Time to get to work!

START HERE

Do you have reliable records of material types, install years, and pipe sizes on both the private AND public side?

NO

Gather data via work order systems, billing systems, LCR sites, GIS, tap cards, tax parcel data, and contractor records.

YES

Do you have predictive modeling capabilities to generate probabilities for homes with lead service lines?

NO

Build confidence in your program by investing in a tool to model homes with the highest likelihood of LSLs. If you have the resources and your records are unreliable, consider conducting pothole or hydrovac investigations at a statistically determined number of sites and use that data set for predictive modeling.

YES

Have you gathered data from physical inspections to validate material types?

NO

Gather data via inspections during normal operations, potholing or hydrovacating, or through customer communication campaigns.

YES

Do you still have unknowns even after predictive modeling & physical inspections and want to explore other methods of validation?

NO

Complete the Inventory.

YES

Test water and pipes directly through profile sampling, XRF instruments, customer surveys or lead swabs.

Do you have customer data in place to inform residents of LSLs and Unknowns?

NO

Gather and centralize customer data via billing and address information.

YES

Inform all customers who have LSLs and Unknowns.

Do you serve more than 50,000 residents each year?

NO

You are not required by the revised LCR to publish your inventory online – however, it is still necessary to have the inventory completed and on hand to be available upon request.

YES

Publish your inventory online to be accessible for all residents. We recommend creating a comprehensive tool to help customers identify and learn more about Lead Service Lines.

Do you have known LSLs in your inventory?

NO

You are exempt from creating a replacement plan if you have completed an inventory of all service lines and have no LSLs, Galvanized requiring replacement or unknown service connections.

YES

You are required to create a replacement plan under the revised LCR. Do you have a prioritized list of where to focus your replacement efforts?

NO

We recommend prioritizing by probabilities or construction year, and environmental justice metrics to ensure you're protecting those at the highest list of lead exposure (children less than 6 years old, families living at or below the poverty level, pregnant women, refugees neighborhoods with a high percentage of minorities).

YES

With a prioritization list in hand, create your replacement plan. Detail how your utility will prioritize replacement, blocks and neighborhoods with the highest numbers of LSLs, opportunities for replacement over the next 5 years, and communication strategies.

Do you have budget to fund your replacement plan?

NO

Research funding opportunities such as your State Revolving Fund or federal grants as a method or supplement to fund your replacement project, and apply for those you're eligible for.

YES



Time to implement your replacement plan, get the lead out, and keep your citizens safe!



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