# WHAT'S ON NEWS FOR DC WATER CUSTOMERS • VOLUME 17 ISSUE 6 DC WATER SERVICE INFORMATION Left half is public space Right half is private side Type of material: no information Type of material: copper

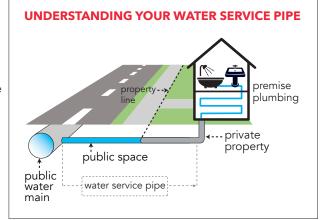
### **DC Water Launches Interactive Map of Service Lines**

DC Water recently launched an interactive map and online content designed to help property owners identify the material that makes up their water service lines, where that information is available. The new map allows customers to enter an address and see the information that DC Water has in its records about the service pipe material, in public space and on private property. The map is available at dcwater.com/servicelines.

Several new web pages accompany the map, including an explanation of the service line connections and answers to FAQs. This is in addition to the robust information already on dcwater.com regarding lead in water, how to identify lead service lines, requesting free testing and what residents should do if they have lead service lines or other lead sources in their premise plumbing.

Customers should note that the records are incomplete and in some cases the pipe material information is not available. Property owners are encouraged to contact DC Water if they have information on the material of their service line that is not reflected in DC Water's records. They are asked to send that information to:

leadtest@dcwater.com and include pictures or any additional documentation they may have.



Type of material: lead



#### **GENERAL MANAGER'S**

Dear Customers:

MESSAGE

I am pleased that DC Water has become one of the first water utilities in the nation to provide public



records online that show service line material by address. Tests show that overall our lead levels are historically low. However, every property is unique and we want our customers to have easy access to all of the available information about their service lines, so they can make informed decisions to minimize their exposure to lead in water. DC Water will pay for the replacement of lead service lines in public space if property owners elect to replace their portion of the line located on private property.

Though water is lead-free when it leaves the Washington Aqueduct, lead can be released when the water comes in contact with pipes and plumbing fixtures that contain lead, usually in the service line or within the home. Lead sources and lead levels vary between buildings, so it is important to identify and remove any lead sources in each household. We encourage pregnant or nursing women and children under age six to use filtered tap water for drinking water and cooking until all lead sources are removed. Filters certified for lead removal are required to meet NSF Standard 53. For more information on lead in water, please visit dcwater.com/lead.

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## What's that stink in my sink?

Have you ever turned on your sink and gotten a whiff of something that smells foul? It is unlikely that your tap water is the source of the odor. More often, what you smell is debris in the U-shaped pipe under your sink. Over time, debris flows down the drain and collects in this pipe. This build-up can cause the foul odor that you smell when you run water into the pipe.

If you're not sure if the smell is coming from the water or your sink, there is a simple and easy way to find out. Fill a glass with water and walk into another room to smell the water in the glass. No smell? Then the odor is probably coming from the pipes under your sink. DC Water suggests that you pour bleach or a disinfectant down the drain to remove any debris and odor.

If the odor is still present in the water when you smell it from the other room or the odor persists, call DC Water's Drinking Water Division at 202-612-3440.





### There is no such thing as waste, only wasted resources

When wastewater comes into the Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant, it is separated into liquids and solids, and both get cleaned through various processes. Throughout the wastewater's journey, solids are collected and sent to be sterilized at high pressure and heat, then anaerobically digested by microbes that help generate power. There is still a portion of solids left over at the end – clean Class A biosolids. DC Water has been giving away this nutrient-rich soil amendment, but now aims to create a product that can one day be bagged and sold in stores.

DC Water recently launched a pilot program to provide local partners with biosolids for blending or landscaping in exchange for information on how they optimize their production with the biosolids. One goal is to test different soil blends, and the partners will provide DC Water with periodic samples and give feedback on their experience using the biosolids. DC Water has already been composting its biosolids in recent years for use in the District, partnering with urban gardeners, government agencies and schools. DC Water introduced the pilot program and the name and logo of the new product, Bloom<sup>TM</sup>, this spring.

#### Be alert, be safe - ask for identification

Please be alert when someone comes to your door asking for entry to your property. From time to time, individuals may pose as a utility worker to gain access to your home. Customers should verify the identification of all utility employees coming to their homes. DC Water employees drive distinctively marked DC Water vehicles with DC municipal license plates, wear uniforms with DC Water logo patches and always carry a District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority photo identification card. Anyone fearing for their safety should call 911. Additionally, you can call DC Water Customer Service at 202-354-3600, to report suspicious activities involving DC Water employees or impersonators.











@dcwater



**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY** 

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DCWATER.COM