

Guidance on Lead-Certified Point-of-Use (POU) and Pitcher Filters Under Lead and Copper Rule Improvements

The requirement to provide lead-certified filters is generally triggered by lead exposure risks related to service line disturbance or replacement.

When Water Systems Are Required to Provide Filters

1. During and After Partial or Full Lead Service Line Replacements

Before a service line is returned to service after full or partial replacement of a lead or Galvanized Requiring Replacement (GRR) service line, the water system must provide a lead-certified POU or pitcher filter to the affected household, along with use or installation instructions, flushing guidance, and enough replacement cartridges to last at least 6 months. If more than one household is impacted (such as at a multi-family building), then these must be provided to each affected household.

2. When a Lead, GRR, or Unknown Line Is Disturbed

If these types of service lines are disturbed and physically cut during replacement of an inline water meter, water meter setter, connector, or water main, the water system must notify the household, provide information listed in [40 CFR 141.85\(f\)\(1\)](#), and provide a lead-certified POU device or pitcher filter, 6 months of replacement cartridges, and instructions for use.

3. In High-Risk Situations Identified Through Sampling

If customer-requested or routine compliance sampling detects lead above the action level (10 parts per billion (PPB), especially for homes with lead, GRR, or unknown service lines, the water system may be required or advised to provide lead-certified filters to affected and high-risk consumers. In the case of multiple action-level exceedances, it may be required to submit a system-wide filter plan to Division of Water (DOW). In this situation, DOW staff will communicate with the utility to advise on the required course of action.

4. Vulnerable Populations (Schools, Daycares, Low-Income Housing)

EPA encourages filter provision at locations serving vulnerable populations, such as childcare centers, schools, or homes with pregnant women or infants.

Best Practices for Water Systems

- Maintain accurate and current service line inventories.
- Avoid partial replacements whenever possible.
- Prepare logistics and funding for filter provision.
- Include filter-related communication in customer notification plans.



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For more details, see the [**Consumer Tool of Identifying Point-of-Use and Pitcher Filters**](#)