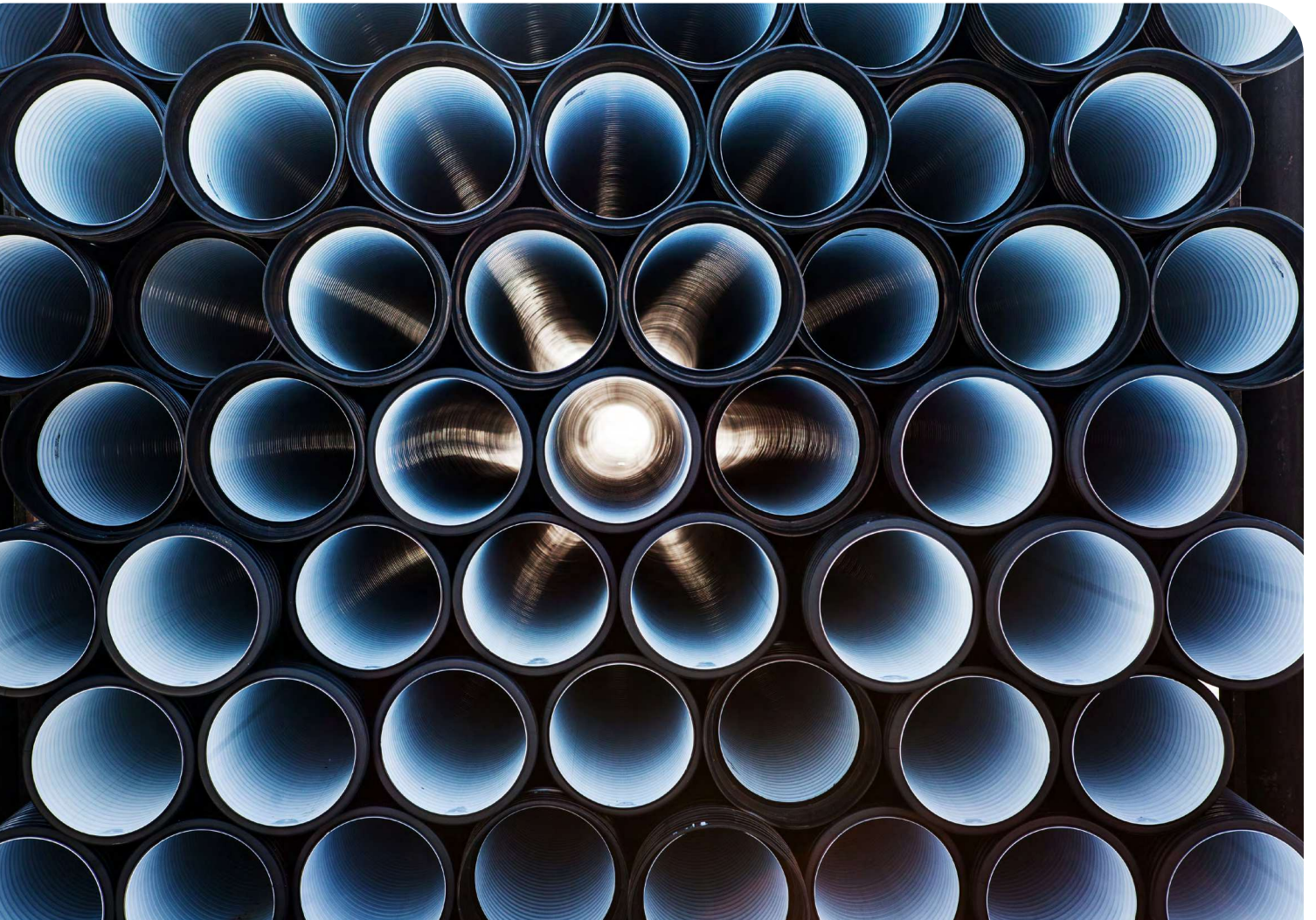


Water Facts

7. Lead Explained



Lead Explained

Should I be worried about lead in my water supply?

Significant concentrations of lead aren't found naturally in environmental waters or drinking water supplies. However, lead can be found in drinking water that's been in contact for extended periods (for instance overnight or during holidays) with lead service pipes, lead-lined tanks, lead solder joints or some plumbing fittings and taps.

The use of lead service pipes was phased out during the 1960's and their use became illegal in 1969. Today, service pipes are made of blue polyethylene. Some properties built before 1970 may still have lead pipes or lead pipes that connects to the water mains (services pipes), while those built after 1970 are unlikely to. Whilst, lead pipes were banned in 1969 it wasn't until 1987 that lead solder was banned for use in drinking water pipe joints.

All of the properties served by Leaf Water are "new builds" and the associated Leaf Water infrastructure including pipework and fittings are all lead free. This significantly lowers the risk of lead being present in the water supply to your property.

If your still worried that the pipe supplying your house is lead you can check. Find your internal stop tap, where the water first comes into the property. This may be in or behind the cupboards in your kitchen or a downstairs toilet. Unpainted lead pipes appear dull grey and often have a swollen joint next to the tap. The metal is soft and, if gently scraped with a coin, you will see the shiny, silver-coloured metal beneath.

Do water companies monitor for lead?

All water companies take samples for lead analysis at customer taps at randomly selected properties within their supply area.

The frequency of these samples is determined by The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations.

What are the regulatory limits for lead in drinking water?

The maximum limit (PCV – Prescribed Concentration or Value) for lead in drinking water is 10 micrograms per litre (ug/l).



What are the controls used by water companies to control the lead levels?

Water companies in England and Wales are required to treat the water where there is a perceived risk of lead being present at dangerous levels. In the case of Leaf Water the resident incumbent water company will risk assess the likelihood of lead at their customers' taps and where required treat the water with orthophosphate to significantly reduce the likelihood of a problem occurring.

Because the resident incumbent water company will supply an area wider than just Leaf Water's area of supply, the supply to your property maybe dosed with orthophosphate despite the risk of lead being very low at your property.

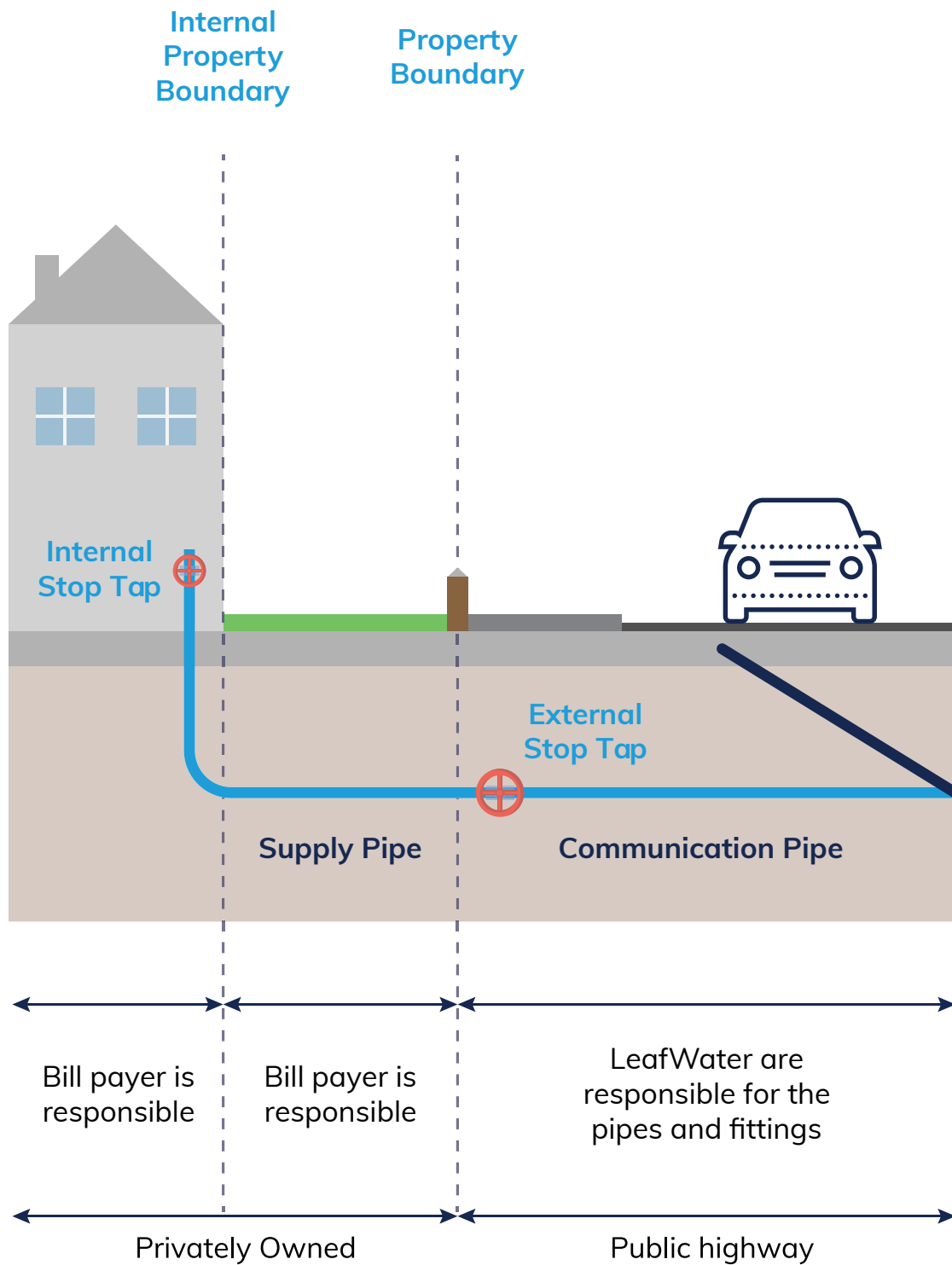
All water companies are also required to replace their side of the service pipe (the communication pipe) if lead is found and the property owner is replacing their side of the pipe work (the supply pipe).

If I do find lead, what am I responsible for replacing?

Leaf water are responsible for all pipework or fittings outside the boundary of your property that falls within their licenced supply area.

Any pipework within the boundary of your property including your garden is your responsibility. The following diagram explains ownership of pipe work.





To find out more about your internal plumbing and how to can impact the taste and odour of your water, please [click here](#) to visit the Water Safe website.

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