



Why Do Water Mains Break?

Water main breaks can be caused by various factors, including changes in temperature, pressure fluctuations, and human error. However, the primary culprit is often changes in air temperature. As we transition into late Fall and Winter, dropping temperatures cause the ground to freeze. When frost forms, it exerts pressure on underground pipes, causing the ground to shift and potentially breaking pipes at their weakest points. This can affect both main water lines and service laterals to individual properties.

Signs of a Water Main or Service Lateral Break

Keep an eye out for signs of a potential water main or service lateral break. Common indicators include:

- **Lower Water Pressure:** A noticeable drop in water pressure can signal a problem.
- **Discolored Water:** Increased flow from a break can stir up sediment and corrosion in the pipes, leading to discolored water.
- **Water on the Roadway:** You might see water pooling or flowing on the road, and sometimes dirt or mud may appear.

How You Can Help

Easton Suburban Water Authority relies on customers to help identify potential issues. If you notice any of the signs mentioned above—such as lower water pressure, discolored water, or water on the road—please contact us at 610-258-7181. While we continuously monitor the system through our SCADA system, your observations are invaluable in helping us address smaller issues promptly.

Types of Pipes in Our System

Our water system includes a variety of pipes:

- **Water Mains:** Most are made of cast iron or ductile iron. Cast iron has been used for over 100 years, while ductile iron, developed in the mid-20th century, offers greater flexibility and durability.
- **Water Service Laterals:** These vary in material. Early installations often used lead and galvanized pipe. Copper, introduced in the 1920s and 1930s, gradually replaced these older materials. Plastic pipes have also been used more recently. Easton Suburban Water Authority is actively updating records to identify and replace outdated materials in line with Pennsylvania DEP requirements.

Thank you for your attention and assistance in keeping our water system running smoothly.

Do You Know Where Your Master Water Supply Valve Is?

In the event of a water emergency, knowing the location of your master water supply valve can save you valuable time and prevent damage. Here are some common places to check:

- **Where the water supply pipe enters your home**
- **Near your clothes washer hook-up**
- **Near your water heater**

Every home, apartment, and business has a master water supply valve. To confirm you've found the correct one, turn it off briefly and check if all the water faucets in the building stop running. If they don't, try another valve.

Once you've identified the right valve, make it easy to locate in an emergency by tagging it with a label, bright ribbon, or colorful paint. Quick access to this valve could make all the difference in minimizing damage during a water-related crisis.

Planned Water System Improvements

Richmond Road Water System Improvements

We are pleased to announce that upgrades have been completed on Richmond Road! This project involved replacing the old 10-inch cast iron water main with a new 12-inch ductile iron water main between Elizabeth Avenue and Mecco Road in Forks Township. The timely completion assured that any disruptions were minimized and that the project was completed before the school year began, with Forks Elementary School situated nearby.

Dogwood Terrace Water System Improvements

The enhancements continued with the Dogwood Terrace Water System Improvements. This project upgraded the existing 6-inch cast iron water mains to robust 8-inch ductile iron water mains across Acorn Drive, Dogwood Terrace, Oaktree Lane, Paul Eaton Road, and Elizabeth Avenue (between Johnson Street and Paul Eaton Road) in Forks Township. The water system installation was completed by early July, and the permanent pavement restoration was finalized by the end of August.

Jackson Street Water System Improvements

In the City of Easton, the Jackson Street Water System Improvements involved replacing the cast iron water main with new ductile iron mains between 7th and 10th Streets, as well as connecting new water service laterals and replacing any lead service laterals between 7th and 13th Streets. The water system work was completed in July, and permanent restoration was finished in August.



PipeInsight

ESWA's Material Identification Project

Looking For Lead in Older Homes | Where might I find it?



Copper Pipe with Lead Solder: Solder made or installed before 1986 contained high lead levels.



Faucets: Fixtures inside your home may contain lead.



Galvanized Pipe: Lead particles can attach to the surface of galvanized pipes. Over time, the particles can enter your drinking water, causing elevated lead levels.



Lead Service Line: The service line is the pipe that runs from the water main to the home's internal plumbing. Lead service lines can be a major source of lead contamination in water.



Lead Goose Necks: Goose necks and pigtails are shorter pipes that connect the lead service line to the main.



Watch the video

Replace Your Lead Service

ESWA is on a constant rotation of routine testing throughout our service area. We alert our customers when we will be doing pipe testing and communicate immediately if any discrepancies are found.

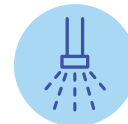
Our main goal is to provide the highest quality water for you and your family.

Reduce Your Exposure To Lead

For more information, visit [eswater.net/water-lead.html](https://www.eswater.net/water-lead.html)



Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water.



Regularly clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator).



Consider using a water filter certified to remove lead and know when it's time to replace the filter.



Before drinking, flush your pipes by running your taps, taking a shower, or doing a load of laundry or dishes.

Identify Other Lead Sources In Your Home

Lead in homes can also come from sources other than water. If you live in a home built before 1978, you may want to have your paint tested for lead. Consider contacting your doctor to have your children tested if you are concerned about lead exposure.

In Case of Emergency? Please Let Us Know!

Your comfort and convenience are our top priority and believe it or not, we don't always hear from you if there is a problem with your water supply or quality. If you need to report an outage or an urgent water-related issue, please contact our office at **610-258-7181**. The ESWA team is available 24/7 to resolve urgent water-related matters.

For non-urgent issues, visit our website and submit the information here: <https://www.eswater.net/water-emergency.html> or email us at info@eswater.net



[eswater.net](https://www.eswater.net)
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