



WHITE GLOVE BUILDING INSPECTIONS, INC.

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The Environmental Protection Agency has finalized a rule that mandates the replacement of lead pipes in drinking water systems within 10 years. The EPA also announced billions from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law passed in 2021, in funding and loans to upgrade systems and make the changes, including a total of \$50 billion to improve drinking and wastewater systems.

Up to 9 million homes across the US still get water that flows through these old lead pipes, according to EPA estimates. Lead can get into drinking water. As a toxic metal, it can accumulate in the human body over time and is particularly harmful to children.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced \$240,899,000 from Investing in America Act to help Illinois identify and replace lead service lines, preventing exposure to lead in drinking water. In July 2024, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced over \$43 million in principal forgiveness funding to 17 communities. Local cities that have received money include Coal city, Crete, Steger, Hillsboro, Naperville, and of course Chicago, which received a \$336 loan to help remove 30,000 lead pipes across Chicago.

Yes, Joliet has secured federal funding to support its water infrastructure improvements, including lead service line replacements. In April 2022, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced loans totaling \$308 million to the City of Joliet. Additionally, in May 2024, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) provided over \$4 million in funding to Joliet for the replacement of approximately 557 lead service lines with copper ones. These loans are designated for the Alternative Water Source Program, which aims to transition the city's water supply to Lake Michigan and includes efforts to modernize the existing water distribution system. This modernization encompasses identifying and replacing lead service lines to ensure safe drinking water for residents.

Key Points of the Program:

- **Part of a Five-Year Plan:** Joliet is working to completely remove lead service lines to ensure safe drinking water for residents.
- **Funding & Support:** The city receives financial assistance from state and federal sources to help cover the costs.
- **Ongoing Water Main Replacements:** Since 2017, Joliet has been replacing aging water mains to reduce water loss and prepare for new water sources.
- **Resident Participation:** Homeowners with lead service lines may qualify for free replacements as part of this program.

If you are a Joliet resident and want to check your eligibility or learn more, I recommend visiting the **City of Joliet's official website** or contacting the local water department.

Carol Fisher and The White Glove Team

