



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

# Domestic Lead Remediation Grant Scheme

Frequently asked questions

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Prepared by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

[gov.ie/housing](https://www.gov.ie/housing)

Note: These FAQs should be read in conjunction with the Terms and Conditions for the Domestic Lead Remediation Grant Scheme, Circular L2/22 and Statutory Instrument No. 519/2022, which can be accessed [here](#).

## **Brief Overview**

The Domestic Lead Remediation Grant Scheme has been in existence since 2016 and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage have revised the eligibility criteria with effect from 1 December 2022.

Lead is a naturally occurring metal that was used for pipework and plumbing in some houses built up to, and including, the 1970s. However, exposure to lead in drinking water has been identified as a serious public health risk. The grant scheme was introduced in line with the Government's National Lead Strategy in order to reduce people's exposure to lead in drinking water.

The aim of the grant is to assist households with the cost of replacing lead pipes and fittings within the boundaries of the property. The grant is available if you receive a water supply from either a public or private water supplier.

According to the World Health Organisation, there is no completely safe level of lead in drinking water. The best and most effective way of dealing with lead in drinking water is to replace all lead pipes and all lead plumbing delivering drinking water to the house concerned.

**The Domestic Lead Remediation Grant Scheme will be administered by local authorities on behalf of the Department. Any enquiries about applying for the grant should be addressed to your relevant local authority.**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q1. What is the Domestic Lead Remediation Grant Scheme?**

This grant provides financial assistance to replace lead piping and fittings within the internal distribution system of the house concerned.

### **Q2. Who is eligible to apply?**

An individual may be eligible to apply for a grant to their local authority, if they have lead pipes in their house and they meet the criteria set out in the Terms and Conditions of the grant scheme.

### **Q3. What properties are eligible for the grant?**

A property that is occupied by the applicant as their normal place of residence.

### **Q4. I live in rented accommodation, am I entitled to apply for this grant?**

For the purposes of eligibility, a normal place of residence includes long term tenants. If you reside in a private long-term rental dwelling, **yes** you can apply, once you have the permission of your landlord.

### **Q5. What properties are ineligible for the grant?**

Private holiday homes and properties operated on a commercial basis are excluded (e.g. short term holiday lettings, self-catering properties, caravans/mobile homes, caravan/mobile home sites etc.). Properties owned by local authorities, housing associations, Health Services Executive etc. are also excluded.

**Q6. What is the application process?**

The Terms and Conditions of the grant scheme contain full details of the application process, which includes the following:

- Provide evidence of lead pipes and fittings within the internal distribution system of the house
- The following should be included with an application:
  - Proof of payment and invoice from each contractor engaged
  - Certification from each contractor that materials and pipes and fittings are of the appropriate standard
  - A printout of an eTax Clearance cert for each contractor engaged
- If you are a customer of Irish Water, you may apply for their Customer Opt-in Scheme.

**Q7. What is the income limit?**

The means test requirement has been removed with the introduction of the new grant conditions from 1 December 2022.

**Q8. What is the 'internal distribution system' of a house?**

The internal distribution system means that part of a distribution system, within the curtilage of a premises, which is used for the provision of water for human consumption or food or drinks production. This is the drinking water pipework and fittings that extends from the boundary of the property to the kitchen tap.

**Q9. What scope of works are eligible for the grant?**

The grant will provide assistance towards the direct cost of replacing lead piping within the internal distribution system of the house concerned. Note any indirect costs incurred by the applicant themselves are not eligible costs.

**Q10. What evidence do I need to provide to show I have lead pipes or fittings in my house?**

- (a) a notification from a water supplier advising that there is likely to be lead pipes and related fittings within the internal distribution system of the house concerned, or
- (b) a certificate dated within the six months immediately prior to the date of application by a laboratory accredited by the Irish National Accreditation Board confirming a parametric value for lead in the drinking water supply to the house concerned, which exceeds the statutory limit, of 10µg/l, or

- (c) a notification from a registered building professional advising that there are lead pipes and related fittings located within the internal distribution system of the house concerned.

**Q11. Who is a registered building professional?**

A registered building professional is either:

- an Architect on the register maintained by the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland under Part 3 of the Building Control Act 2007
- a Chartered Engineer on the register maintained by Engineers Ireland under Section 7 of the Institute of Civil Engineers of Ireland (Charter Amendment) Act 1969, or
- a Building Surveyor on the register maintained by Part 5 of the Building Control Act 2007.

**Q12. Can a plumber provide evidence of lead pipes in my house for the purpose of grant eligibility?**

No, currently evidence provided from a plumber of lead pipes in the house concerned cannot be used for the purpose of proving eligibility for the grant. Evidence must be in the form of a notification from a water supplier, a certification from a laboratory or a registered building professional (as defined at Q10 and Q11 above).

**Q13. What is the Grant Eligibility?**

- The cost of works must exceed €750
- The applicant must reside in the house concerned as their normal place of residence
- Evidence of lead pipes and fittings within the internal distribution system of the house concerned must be provided in accordance with the Terms and Conditions.

**Q14. Can I apply if I have completed the relevant works prior to 1 December 2022?**

Yes, an individual who has replaced lead pipes and related fittings prior to 1 December 2022 can apply, provided the applicant meets the full Terms and Conditions of the new grant scheme. In this case, the notification from a registered building professional cannot be used to provide proof of lead pipes, as it does not come into effect until 1 December 2022. You may still use evidence in the form of a notification from a water supplier or a certification from laboratory accredited by the Irish National Accreditation board (INAB).

**Q15. What is Irish Water's Opt-In Scheme and am I required to apply for this?**

If you are an Irish Water customer and receive your domestic water from the public supply, Irish Water will replace the public side of any lead piping up to your boundary, wall free of charge. You are advised to contact Irish Water in relation to their Customer Opt-In Scheme if you suspect you may have lead pipes. In this case, you may in addition be also eligible for this grant to assist with the cost of replacing the lead pipes on the private side of the property from the boundary wall to the kitchen sink.

**Q16. Who do I contact in Irish Water about getting the pipes on the public side replaced?**

For more information on Irish Water's Customer Opt-In Lead Pipe Replacement Scheme, visit [www.water.ie/lead](http://www.water.ie/lead) or call Irish Water on 1800 278 278 or +353 1 707 2828.

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