


## ASBESTOS-CEMENT WATER PIPE INFORMATION



Edson's water meets and exceeds all provincial and national standards for safe, clean drinking water, both at the new Water Treatment Plant, wells, and through the distribution network that transports treated water to your home or business.

There have been a few inquiries following recent media reports about asbestos-cement (A-C) water pipes. The following information about Edson's water system has been gathered by our Public Works Department.

### **Does Edson have asbestos-cement (A-C) water pipe?**

Yes. At the end of 2022, about 17.229 KM out of Edson's 77.681 KM of underground water pipes are made of asbestos-cement (A-C).

The majority of the water system is polyvinyl chloride (PVC), and some pipes are cast-iron, steel, or concrete-pressure.

### **Do we test for asbestos in the water system?**

No. Health Canada has not established a maximum acceptable concentration (MAC) for asbestos in drinking water.

The Town Of Edson tests according to the regulations set forth by Health Canada, Alberta Health, the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act under Alberta Environment and Protected Areas, and best practices outlined by the Canadian Water and Wastewater Association.

The Town Of Edson is prepared to adjust if and when any of these regulations should change, to continue compliance for water safety standards.

### **Does Edson still install asbestos-concrete (A-C) pipe?**

No. A-C pipe is no longer manufactured and has not been installed in Canadian municipal water systems for decades. In 2015, A-C pipe was removed from the National Building Code.

While there is no regulatory direction to remove A-C pipes from municipal water networks in Canada, A-C pipe is replaced in Edson through ongoing annual asset management and during repairs. As the Town replaces aging infrastructure, the amount of A-C pipe decreases year after year.

### **Are there asbestos fibres in my drinking water?**

The Canadian Water and Wastewater Association maintains that there is no evidence of any significant amounts of asbestos fibers entering water systems from leaching or deterioration of A-C pipes.

Asbestos is a natural occurring fibre and may be released into drinking water sources from runoff of mining tailings, improperly disposed contaminated household wastes, and stream and groundwater contact with asbestos-bearing bedrock.

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### Is my health at risk?

It is well-documented that adverse health effects from asbestos are primarily associated with inhalation of fibers, however, Health Canada and the World Health Organization have concluded that there is no consistent, convincing evidence that asbestos ingested through water is harmful to your health.

The Town of Edson relies on Health Canada's Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality and the Town's approval to operate a waterworks system through Alberta Environment and Protected Areas to inform decisions relating to water safety and A-C pipes.

Find more information from Health Canada on asbestos-cement pipes and asbestos fibres at:

[www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/publications/healthy-living/asbestos-drinking-water-infographic-2021.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/publications/healthy-living/asbestos-drinking-water-infographic-2021.html)

### Are workers safe when removing A-C pipe?

Yes. Though there are known risks with airborne asbestos, crews are trained to take all necessary precautions and wear personal protective equipment to eliminate the risk of inhaling airborne asbestos fibres when cutting and working with A-C pipe.

### Town of Edson Water Distribution System Statistics

Pipe Material	Length of Pipe (Km)	Years installed
Cast iron	17.086	1931-1972
Asbestos cement	17.229	1971-1981
Ductile Iron	3.322	1976-2005
PVC	37.035	1981-present
HDPE	3.009	2006-2016

### More Information

For more details on the Town of Edson's Water System, please contact Public Works at 723-6461 or visit our website at [www.edson.ca/departments/public-works/water-and-sewer](http://www.edson.ca/departments/public-works/water-and-sewer).