

Service Line Identification Instructions

IDENTIFYING A LEAD SERVICE PIPE

Tools needed: flathead screwdriver, refrigerator magnet

Lead pipes are dull gray in color and are soft enough to be easily scratched with a house key. A magnet will not stick to a lead pipe. A licensed plumber can determine if your service line and/or plumbing are made of lead and can replace them for you at your cost.

- Locate the water service pipe coming into the building (usually in the basement). An "inlet valve" and the water meter are installed on the pipe after the point of entry.
- Identify a test area on the pipe between the point where it comes into the building and the inlet valve.
- If the pipe is covered or wrapped, expose a small area of metal.
- Use the flat edge of a screwdriver or other tool to scratch through any corrosion that might have built up on the outside of the pipe.



Photo courtesy of Madison Water Utility

Lead Pipe

If the scratched area is shiny and silver, your service line is lead. A magnet will not stick to a lead pipe.



Photo courtesy of Madison Water Utility

If the scratched area is copper in color, like a penny, your service line is copper. A magnet will not stick to copper pipe.



Photo courtesy of Madison Water Utility

Galvanized Steel Pipe

If the scratched area remains a dull gray, and a magnet will stick to the surface, your service line is galvanized steel.



Photo courtesy of Madison Water Utility