



# Pipe Identification Procedures

## How to Identify a Lead Water Service Line

### Tools Needed:

Flathead Screwdriver, Refrigerator Magnet, and a Penny (or other coin)

### Step One:

**Locate the water service line coming into the building.**

This is typically found in the basement. An “inlet valve” and the water meter are installed on the pipe after the point of entry.

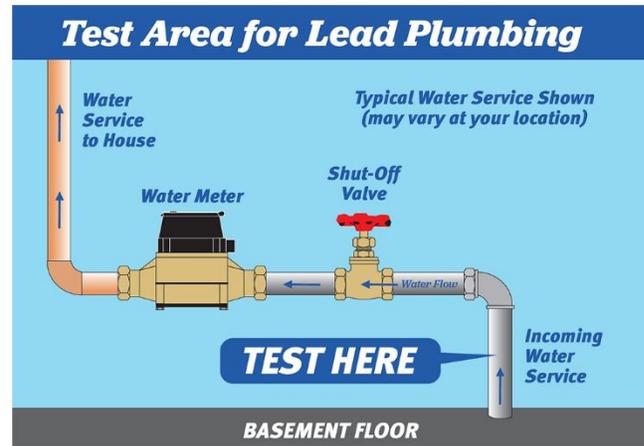
Identify a test area on the pipe between the point where it comes into the building and the inlet valve. If the pipe is covered or wrapped, expose a small area of metal.

### Step Two:

**Scratch the surface of the pipe.**

Use the flat edge of the screwdriver or other tool to scratch through any corrosion that may have built up on the outside of the pipe.

Do Not use a knife or other sharp instrument and take care not to puncture a hole in the pipe.



**NOTE:** The incoming water service in your home can either come up from the basement floor or out of the side wall in the basement. If you do not have a basement, the incoming water service should come up through the floor on the main level.

### Step Three:

**Compare your findings to the chart below.**

Each type of pipe will produce a different type of scratch, react to the magnet differently and produce a unique sound when tapped with a metal coin.



**Lead Pipes**

#### The Scratch Test

If the scraped area is shiny and silver, your service line is lead.

#### The Magnet Test

A magnet will not stick to a lead pipe.

#### The Tapping Test

Tapping a lead pipe with a coin will produce a dull noise.



**Copper Pipes**

#### The Scratch Test

If the scraped area is copper in color, like a penny, your service line is copper.

#### The Magnet Test

A magnet will not stick to a copper pipe.

#### The Tapping Test

Tapping a copper pipe with a coin will produce a metallic ringing noise.



**Galvanized Pipes**

#### The Scratch Test

If the scraped area remains a dull gray, your service line is galvanized steel.

#### The Magnet Test

A magnet sticks to a galvanized pipe.

#### The Tapping Test

Tapping a galvanized pipe with a coin will produce a metallic ringing noise.