

Do You Have a Lead Service Line?



Troy's water supply and distribution mains do not contain lead, however the water service line running from the water main to your home may be made of lead, especially if your house was built before 1940.

Complete the steps below and submit your results

This information will help in planning a city-wide lead service line replacement program. Submit your results at www.troyny.gov/lead or scan the QR code. You may also ask DPU to check the material of your water service line by calling 518-237-0343. Whether your service is copper, lead, or something else, we want to hear from you. If you've already submitted your results, thank you!

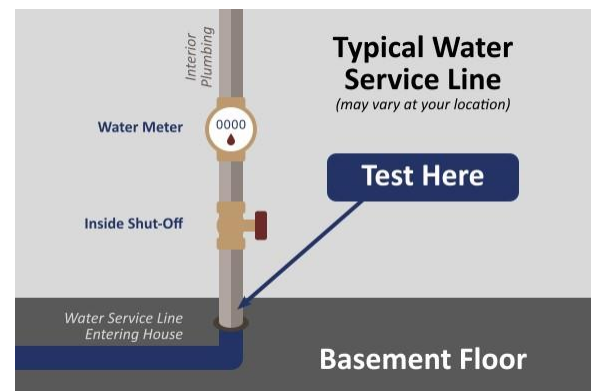
You will need: a key or coin; a strong refrigerator magnet.

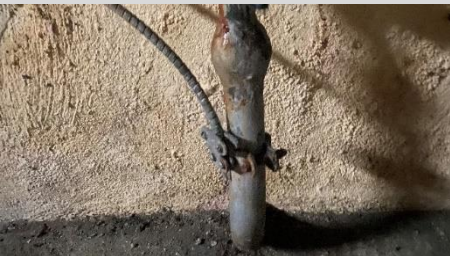


Step 1: Locate your water service where it enters the building. This is typically found in the basement near your water meter. *Testing should be done where the service enters the building, before the shut-off valve and the water meter.* In some instances, a very short length of lead pipe may enter the house before transitioning to another material, so be sure to test as close to the wall or floor as possible.

Step 2: Magnet test. Place a magnet on the pipe and see if it sticks.

Step 3: Scratch test. Carefully scratch the pipe (like you would a lottery ticket) with a key or a coin. Do not use a knife or other sharp tool. If pipe is painted, use sandpaper to expose the metal first.

Step 4: Take a photo. Take a photo of the scratched pipe and compare it to the images below. Be sure to show the pipe entering the building.



Lead	Copper	Steel
		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Magnet does not stick • Scratched area is shiny and silver • Joints often have a distinctive bulb or flare • Flexible pipe, often with visible curves • Exterior is dull gray 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Magnet does not stick • Scratched area is shiny and copper • Joints are soldered • Flexible pipe, often with visible curves • Exterior is brown, sometimes with green or dark brown corrosion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Magnet sticks to pipe • Scratched area remains dull gray • Joints are threaded (screw together) • Straight ridged pipe • Exterior is dark gray or black

Other Materials

Brass pipes are similar in color to copper pipes but have threaded connections. A magnet will not stick to a brass pipe. If your pipe has threaded connections and is golden in color, your service line is brass.

Plastic pipes come in a variety of colors, typically white, black, blue, or red. A magnet will not stick to a plastic pipe.