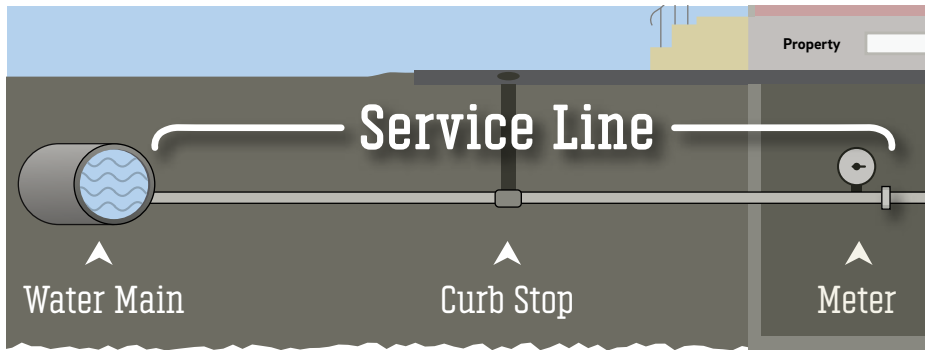


Service Line Materials

Your water service line materials can affect water quality.

Meet your service line

The service line is your pipe. It carries clean water into your property from a water main. The service line is a part of your property's plumbing, even though it's underground.



The property owner owns the service line!
Residential lines **do not** belong to the City.

Different materials at different points? In some cases, a section was replaced in the property's history. The remaining section could have been left intact. This was called a **partial service line replacement**. This means we need records for the material at **multiple points in order to categorize an overall service line material**.

Possible Pipe Materials



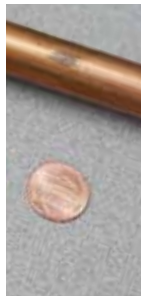
Galvanized metal
Galvanized metal can corrode. Over decades, any lead from a property's plumbing can accumulate on the corroded walls of galvanized pipes.



Lead
Lead was used in the past because it is soft and can be bent. Lead service line installation decreased after the 1950s as harmful health effects became clear.



NON-LEAD: Plastic
Plastic is typically a less expensive option. It is not associated with increased risk of lead.



NON-LEAD: Copper
Copper is used in most service line replacement. Copper service lines are considered safe because they are not associated with increased health risks.

Replacing Lead or Galvanized Metal Service Lines

During planned water main construction, we offer to replace any of these service lines we uncover while digging. This is a free service, but customers must complete and submit a signed **Service Line Replacement Authorization form**.

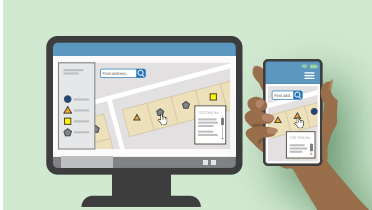
PWD also offers a zero-interest loan for customers interested in replacing these service lines. Learn more: water.phila.gov/lead

How to check your service line material

1. Check our Service Line Map

Our online map shares any known records about the materials in your property's service line.

Explore the map: water.phila.gov/service-line-map



Tip

When you search for your address, use abbreviations and no punctuation. For example, use "ST" for "Street", "W" for "West", and "LA" for "Lane."

? Incomplete records?

For most properties, we don't have complete records for buried portions of service lines.

If your record is incomplete, the service line material is "lead status unknown," but the material may be lead.

This guidance is a safety precaution.

IF YOU HAVE INCOMPLETE RECORDS

2. You can do a simple test

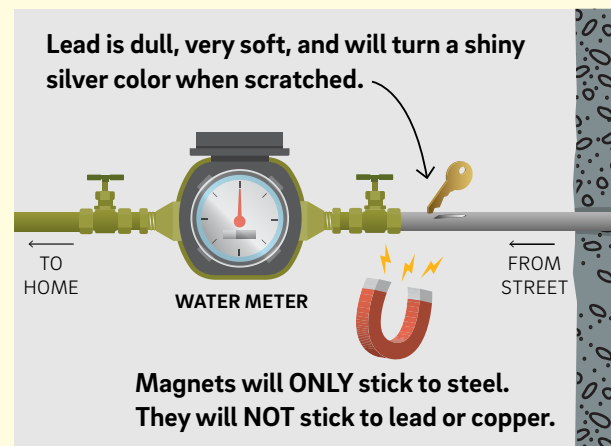
During recent meter upgrades, we checked the service line material at the point nearest the water meter. That test provided a record for **material at the meter** for most properties, but not all.

If you don't have a record for the material at meter, follow these steps:

You will need:

- Key or a coin
- Strong refrigerator magnet

1. Find the water meter in your basement. Look at the pipe that comes through the outside wall of your home and connects to your meter.
2. 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. Be sure not to make a hole in the pipe. If the scratch turns a shiny silver color, it could be lead or steel.
NOTE: If the pipe is painted, use sandpaper to expose the metal first.
3. If the scratch reveals a silver color, place the magnet on the pipe. If a magnet sticks, it is a steel pipe.



Other ways you can check for lead:

- Purchase a lead test kit at a hardware or home improvement store. These kits test what the pipe is made of—not the water inside. Look for an EPA-recognized kit.
- A [licensed and insured plumber](#) can inspect your pipes and other plumbing for lead or galvanized metal. Replacing an older brass faucet or valve might reduce any lead that is dissolving from plumbing into water.

Not sure what the material is? You can submit a photo using the form below, and we will review it.

You can report updated information about your service line back to us.

Use the form at water.phila.gov/service-line-map or email us at: ServiceLineMap@phila.gov