City of St. Louis
Water Division
Yesterday. Today. Tomorrow.

Department of Public Utilities
Office of the Water Commissioner

1640 S. Kingshighway Blvd.
St. Louis MO 63110
(314) 633-9000

Cara Spencer
Mayor

Niraj S. Patel, P.E.
Director of Public Utilities

Identifying Service Line Materials

Characteristics of Service Line Materials

- **Copper Pipe**

	Bare pipe may be shiny, copper in color and will not change colors very much after Scratch Test. A strong refrigerator magnet **will not** stick to copper pipe.

- **Lead Pipe**

	Bare pipe will be a dull silver or gray in color. Lead pipe will be shiny after the Scratch Test. A strong refrigerator magnet **will not** stick to lead pipe.

- **Galvanized Pipe**

	Bare pipe may be shiny or dull and silver or gray in color. May or may not be shiny after the Scratch Test. A strong refrigerator magnet **will** stick to galvanized pipe.

- **Lead Line (Wipe Joint)**

	A typical Lead Service Line with a Wipe Joint. If a wipe joint is present, you have a lead service line. No scratch test is needed.

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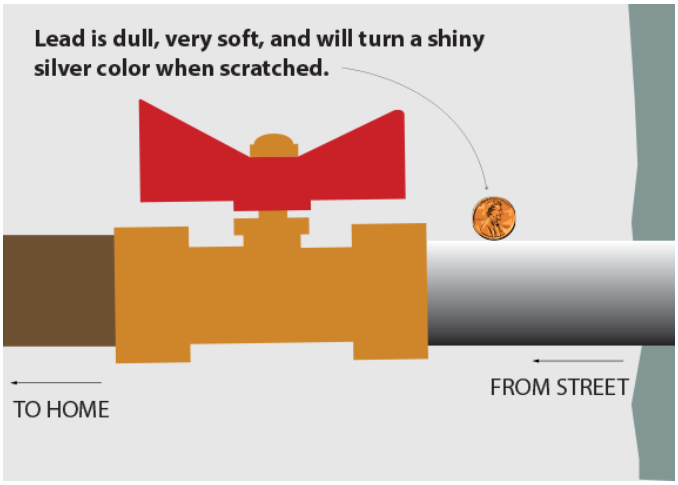
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Identifying Service Line Material – Scratch Test

1. Find the water shut-off valve in your basement. Look at the pipe that comes through the outside wall of your home and connects to your home's shut-off valve.
2. If the pipe is painted, use sandpaper to expose the metal. Carefully scratch the metal pipe (like you would a lottery ticket) with a key or a coin. Do not use a knife or other sharp tool. Take care not to make a hole in the pipe. If the scratch turns a shiny silver color, it could be lead or steel.
3. To determine if the pipe is lead or steel, get a strong refrigerator magnet. Place the magnet on the pipe. If a magnet sticks, it is a steel pipe.
4. You can also buy a lead test kit at a hardware or home improvement store. These kits are used to test what the pipe is made from, not the water inside. Look for an EPA-recognized kit.

Identifying Service Line Material – Other Methods

1. Purchase a lead test kit from a hardware store. Make sure the test kit is for pipe material, not for water testing.
2. Have a licensed plumber inspect your service line to determine the material.