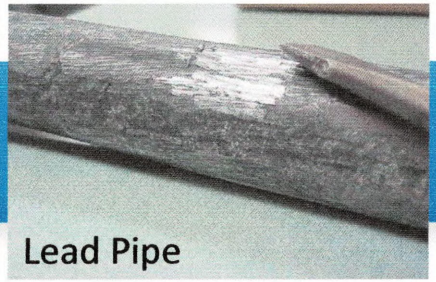
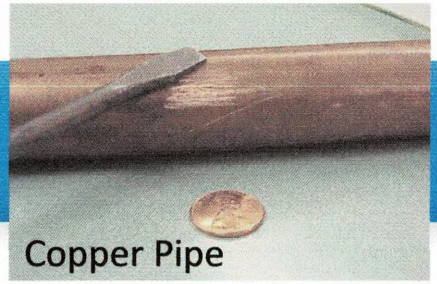
How to identify a lead water service line

1. Gather the necessary tools. You will need a flathead screw driver and a magnet.
2. Locate the water service line coming into your building. This is typically found coming into the basement through the wall or floor. Connected to that pipe there should be a valve, followed by the water meter.
3. Locate the pipe test area. Test the section of pipe between where the pipe comes into the building and the first valve. If it is covered or wrapped, expose a small area to test.
4. Use the flat edge of the screwdriver to scratch through any outside corrosion on the pipe.
5. If the scraped area is shiny and silver, your service line is lead. A magnet will not stick to lead.
6. If the scraped area is copper in color like a penny, then your service line is copper. A magnet will not stick to copper.
7. If the scraped area remains a dull gray and the magnet sticks to the pipe, then your service line is galvanized steel.


Lead Pipe


Copper Pipe

Galvanized Steel Pipe

Please cut off bottom results - send to Brodhead Water and Light

Customer's Response (if tested by customer):

Date Customer Tested:_____

Customer Name:_____

Customer Address:_____

Type of Service Line Material BEFORE water meter: (circle)

Lead Galvanized Copper Pex/Plastic

If available, Year service was installed:_____

Additional Notes:_____

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