

# Pipe Identification Procedures

## How to Identify a Lead Water Service Pipe

### Step 1

#### Locate the water service line entering the building.

This is typically found in the basement. A 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 enters the building and the valve. If the pipe is covered or wrapped, expose a small area of metal.

### Step 2

#### Scratch the surface of the pipe.

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

### Step 3

#### Compare your pipe to the chart below.

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

### Tools needed:

- Flathead screwdriver
- Refrigerator magnet
- Coin



**TEST AREA**

Pipe to outside  
of building



### Lead Pipe

#### Scratch Test

If the scraped area is shiny and silver, the pipe is lead.

#### Magnet Test

A magnet will not stick to a lead pipe.

#### Tapping Test

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



### Copper Pipe

#### Scratch Test

If the scraped area is copper in color, like a penny, the pipe is copper.

#### Magnet Test

A magnet will not stick to a copper pipe.

#### Tapping Test

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



### Galvanized Pipe

#### Scratch Test

If the scraped area remains a dull gray, the pipe is galvanized steel.

#### Magnet Test

A magnet sticks to a galvanized pipe.

#### Tapping Test

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