City of Willard, Ohio
631 Myrtle Avenue
Willard, OH 44890
www.willardohio.gov

HOW TO CHECK YOUR WATER SERVICE LINE MATERIAL

The City of Willard is conducting an inventory of all water service lines and we are asking property owners (tenants) to help us determine if the waterline running out of your home is copper, plastic, lead, or galvanized steel. (This is the portion of waterline that comes into your house and connects to the water meter)

Please follow the steps below and then send the results using the link below. The results will be put in our water service line inventory records.

What You May Need

- Sandpaper
- A house key/screwdriver or something to scratch the line if needed.
- A strong magnet

Steps to Check Your Service Line

1. Find the water meter on your property.
2. Look for the pipe that comes through the outside wall of your home and connects to your meter.
3. Determine the pipe material. This may be obvious if it's plastic or copper. If so, note the material and follow the link below to report your results.
4. If the pipe material is not obvious, then you may need to scratch the pipe to see if you can expose the material. You might want to sand the pipe as well to help expose the metal.
    A. If the pipe material does not feel like metal and when you scratch it, it is the same color in the scratched area, then note plastic.
    B. If the exposed material appears to have a copper color like a penny, then note copper.
    C. If the exposed material has a silver/gray color, then use a magnet on the pipe. If the magnet sticks, then note galvanized steel. If it doesn't stick, then note lead.
5. Report your pipe material results using this link:

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If you tested your water service line and are still unsure of your service line material, the city will visit your home to inspect your service line at no cost to you.

To request an inspection please click the "Request help to verify" button in the link above.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at (419) 935-6555.

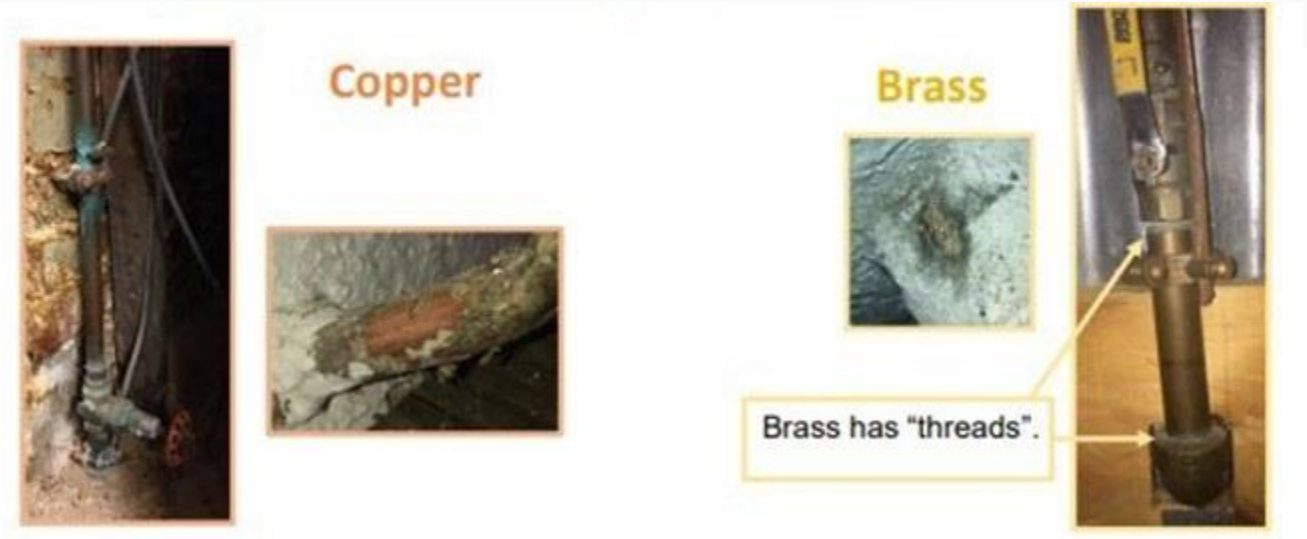
Your Test Results

If your pipe is **copper**: (See examples below)

The pipe may appear bronze to brown in color on the outside but will be the color of a bright penny if gently scratched. A magnet won't stick to a copper pipe.

COPPER

COPPER



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If your pipe is **plastic**: (See examples below)

The pipe may white, blue, or black. A magnet won't stick to a plastic pipe. When scratched the pipe does not change.

PLASTIC

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If your pipe is **lead**: (See examples below)
The pipe will appear dull and soft but will turn a shiny silver color when scratched. A magnet won't stick to a lead pipe.

LEAD

LEAD

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If your pipe is **galvanized steel**: (See examples below)
The scratched area will remain a dull gray and is very hard A magnet will stick to the surface.

GALVANIZED

GALVANIZED

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	Lead	Galvanized Iron	Copper	Brass
Outer Appearance	Dull gray, bendable; Often curves between wall/floor and valve	Dark gray or black; Straight rigid pipe	Brown; Can have green corrosion spots	Brown; Can have green corrosion spots
Threads at connections	None	Yes	None	Yes
Scratch Test (coin or key)	Shiny silver	Hard to scratch, remains gray	Copper, like a penny	Gold color
Magnet Test	Does not stick	Magnet WILL stick	Does not stick	Does not stick

Pipe Identification Procedures

Tools Needed:

Flathead Screwdriver, Refrigerator Magnet & A Penny (or other coin)

Step 1:
Locate the water service line coming into the building.

This is typically found in the basement. An "inlet 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 comes into the building and the inlet 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 or other tool 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 to the magnet differently and produce a unique sound when tapped with a metal coin.

Lead Pipes

The Scratch Test
If the scraped area is shiny and silver, your service line is lead.

The Magnet Test
A magnet will not stick to a lead pipe.

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

Copper Pipes

The Scratch Test
If the scraped area is copper in color, like a penny, your service line is copper.

The Magnet Test
A magnet will not stick to a copper pipe.

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

Galvanized Pipes

The Scratch Test
If the scraped area remains a dull gray, your service line is galvanized steel.

The Magnet Test
A magnet sticks to a galvanized pipe.

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