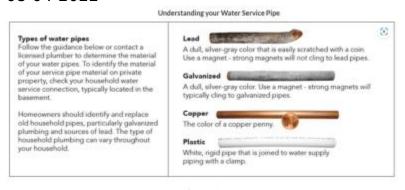
Identifying Service Line Material

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on August 4, 2022 released guidance on conducting a lead service line inventory for compliance with the revised Lead and Copper Rule. The most common sources of lead in drinking water are lead pipes, and brass or bronze faucets and fixtures.

The City of Mount Carmel is in the process of updating its materials to reflect U.S. EPA's guidance. We will update any materials as we have more guidance.

Material Information

NPR;s interactive tool can be checked out to discover if you have lead pipes in your home.

How to identify material of a service line can be a challenge: different pipe material and fittings were used during different decades. The materials available today were not necessarily used or available decades ago.

A service line is the pipe that connects the water main to the plumbing in a home or building. When any part of that pipe is made of lead, it is called a lead service line.

Lead service lines were installed primarily during the late 1800s through the 1940s.

Physically inspecting the piping is one approach. Service line pipes may be exposed where the pipe enters the home through the floor or basement or crawl space wall.

Inspecting the pipe at the water meter, or when discovered through excavating the dirt over the service line or water main.

Water lines are typically several inches below the depth that soil freezes, this means service lines are often 42 inches or more underground and sometimes much deeper. Our knowledge of service line materials is dependent on installation records, or subsequent recorded repairs.

While lead is visibly different from other metals routinely used for water pipes, test kits approved by EPA to test for lead paint can be used to test for lead on the surface of service lines. Information on lead testing resources are available at:

- Occupational Safety and Health Administration: Lead Test Kits
- National Center for Healthy Housing: Lead Testing Kits

If a pipe is painted, the lead kit will respond to the lead in paint. Be sure to confirm false negative test results using the "Test Confirmation Card" contained in the test kit.

Visual scratch testing

Lead is a dull gray color and very soft. If scraped with a key it will turn a bright silver color. Even a very strong magnet will not stick to lead.

Submit Water Service Line Material Survey

Please follow link to submit survey



Understanding your Water Service Pipe



Directions

Address

Water Treatment Plant 119 S. Cherry Street Mount Carmel, IL 62863 United States

View in Google Maps

38.4060779, -87.755136

View Slideshow