

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

What to do if you have a lead water service line



If you determine that your home has a lead water service line, the best way to ensure that you continue to have safe drinking water is to replace the privately-owned portion of the line with copper, iron, or plastic pipe. Stoughton Utilities will replace the publicly-owned portion at the same time. Replacement of the privately-owned water service line will be done at the homeowners expense and costs on average \$3,000 - \$5,000. A licensed plumber can provide you with a price quote for your property.

Stoughton Utilities will provide a water filtration pitcher at no cost to homes served by lead service lines where residents may be at a higher risk of the health impacts from lead, such as homes with young children or expectant mothers. These water pitchers are NSF/ANSI 53 certified to reduce lead levels in your drinking water. If a member of your household is at a higher risk, simply bring a picture of your lead water service line into our office during business hours so that we can verify that your water service line is lead.

To have the water tested at your home, you may contact one of the following certified laboratories in the area:

- Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene - (800) 442-4618
- Northern Lake Service, Inc - (715) 478-2777