

How to Identify a Lead Water Service Line

Tools needed: Flat Head Screwdriver, Magnet, Coin

Step 1

Locate the water service line entering the building. This is typically found in the basement or a crawlspace. A shut-off valve should be installed on the pipe after the point of entry.

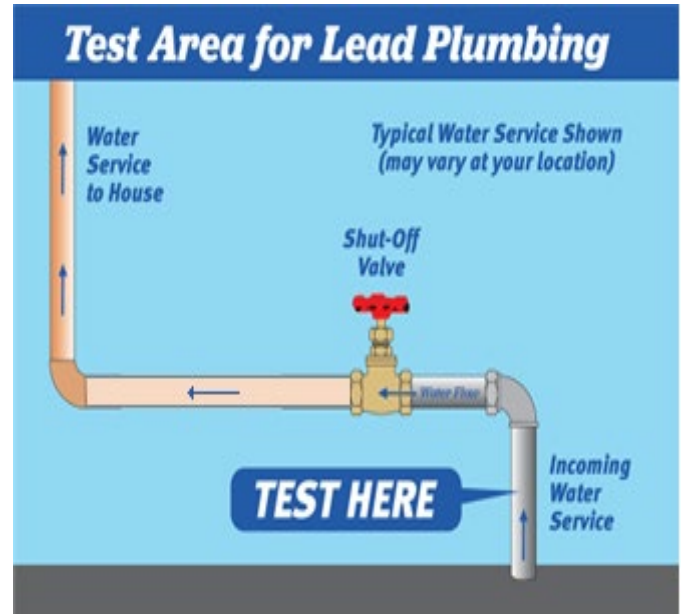
Identify a test area on the pipe between the point of entry in to the building and the shut-off valve. If the pipe is covered or wrapped, expose a small area of the it.

Step 2

Scratch a small surface of the pipe. Use a flat head screwdriver to carefully scratch through any corrosion that may have built up on the outside of the pipe.

Step 3

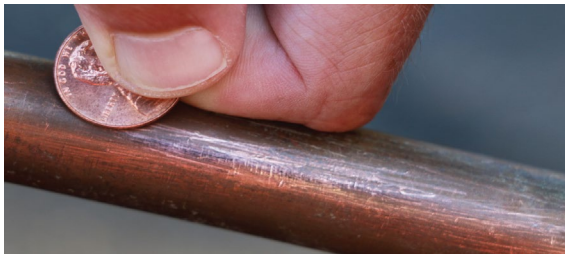
Compare your pipe to the chart below. Each type of pipe will produce a different type of scratch and react differently to the magnet.



Lead Pipe



- * A magnet will not stick to a lead pipe. (Don't lay magnet on top of the pipe.)
- * Scratch the pipe with a coin. If the scraped area is shiny silver and flakes off, the service line is lead.



Copper Pipe



- * A magnet will not stick to copper pipe. (Don't lay magnet on top of the pipe.)
- * Scratch the pipe with a penny. If the scraped area is copper in color, like a penny, your service line is copper.



Galvanized Steel Pipe



- * If a magnet sticks to the surface, your service line is galvanized steel.
- * A scratch test is not needed. If you scratch the pipe, it will remain a dull grey.