

Investigating Your Water Service and Plumbing

Overview- Consumer



1

Locate Your Service Line

Service line pipes are most commonly exposed where the pipe enters the building through the wall or floor. An isolation valve is generally installed at the point of entry.

2

Identify Service Line Material

Use a screwdriver, key, or coin to scratch the service line close to the floor. If the scraped area is shiny silver and a magnet does not stick to the pipe, it is a lead. If the scraped area is copper like a penny, it is a copper pipe. If the scraped area is a dull gray, and a magnet sticks to the pipe, it is galvanized steel/iron.

3

Take a Photo

Take a photo of your service line, where it enters your building. If possible, take a photo of the results of your scratch and magnet tests. You will need to submit this to your utility.

4

Inspect Your Interior Plumbing

Interior plumbing (premise plumbing) refers to the pipes and fixtures on the interior of your home or building. This means the pipes supplying water to the sinks, showers, water heaters, pressure tanks, refrigerators, or other fixtures in your building.

5

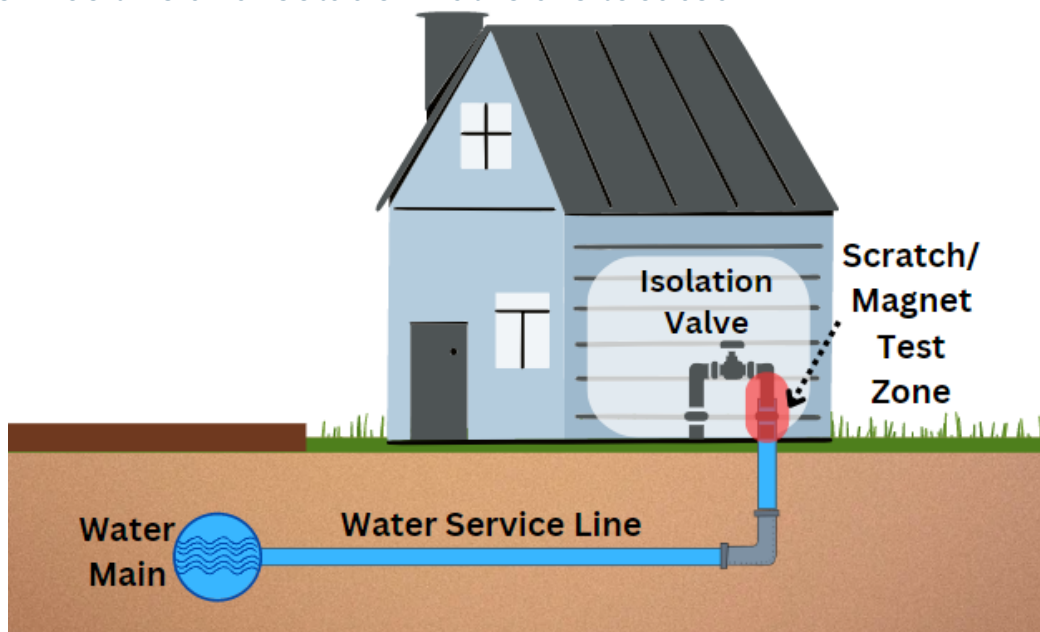
Submit Your Findings

Once you have identified your service line material and premise plumbing material, you must submit your findings to your utility.

1

Locate Your Service Line

Service lines are most commonly exposed where the pipe enters the building through the wall or floor. An isolation valve is generally installed at the point of entry. If you have a crawlspace or basement, the service line will likely come into your building on that level. Your building may have an arctic box located outside your home, where the service line and isolation valve are located.



2

Identify Service Line Material

Lead



A dull, silver colored pipe that can be easily scratched with a coin or key. Scratching leaves a shiny silver color. Magnets WILL NOT stick to lead pipes. Lead pipes are bendable and commonly have a "bulb".

Copper



Brown colored pipe that can be easily scratched with a coin or key. Scratching leaves a copper color. Magnets WILL NOT stick to copper pipes.

Galvanized Iron/Steel



A dull, silver colored pipe that is hard to scratch with a coin or key. Scratching leaves a dull gray color. A magnet WILL stick to a galvanized iron/steel pipe.

Plastic

Generally, black, white, or blue piping. Plastic piping is rigid. A magnet WILL NOT stick to plastic pipe. The color of plastic does NOT indicate the type of plastic. To identify the type of plastic your service line is made of, look for the printed markings on the side of the pipe.



3

Take a Photo

Take a few photos of your service line, where it enters your building. The photos should:

- Be well lit.
- Show the area where you did the scratch and/or magnet test.
- Show your shut off valve and water meter, if you have one.

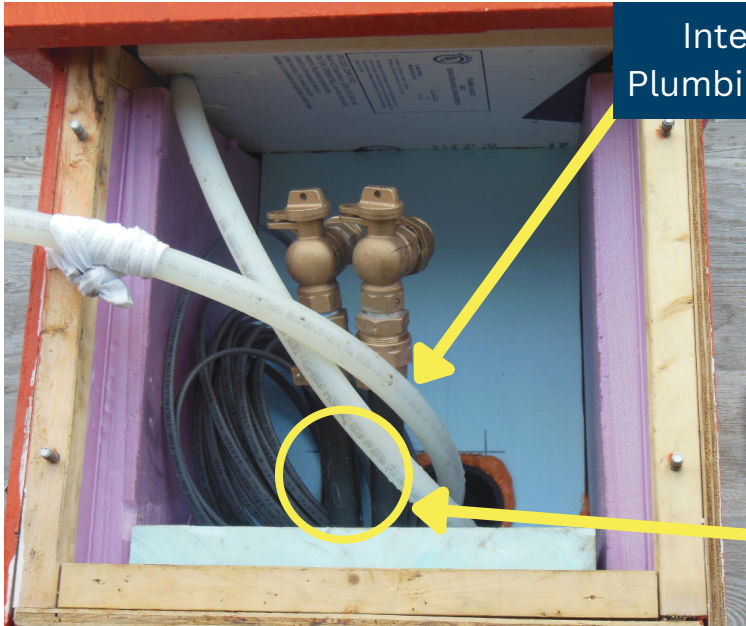


Photo of Service Line within an Arctic Box

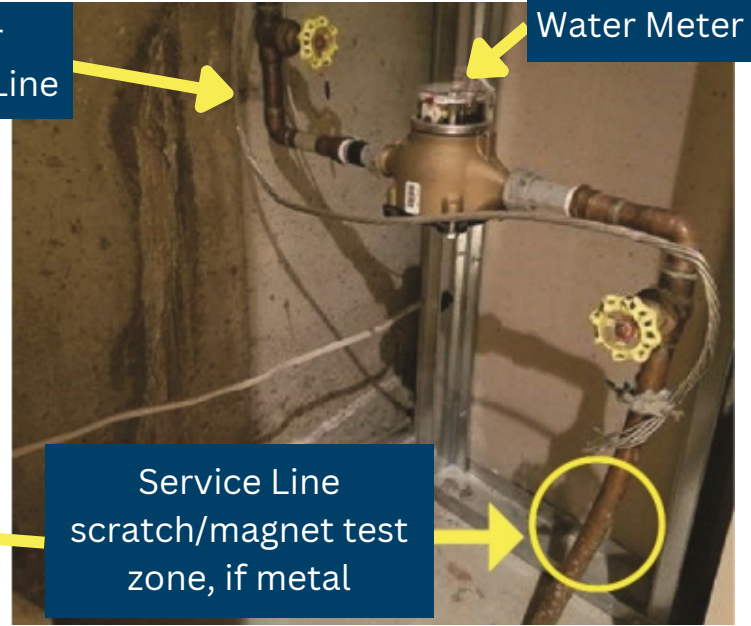


Photo of Service Line within a Basement

4

Inspect Your Interior Plumbing

Interior plumbing (AKA premise plumbing) refers to the pipes and fixtures on the interior of your home or building. This means the pipes supplying water to the sinks, showers, water heaters, pressure tanks, refrigerators, or other fixtures in your building. Interior plumbing is largely found in the walls of your building. To identify the material, you must find exposed sections of pipe. You can commonly find exposed sections of pipe by your pressure tank, water heater, or under your sink.



Copper



Steel



Plastic-PVC



Plastic-HDPE



Plastic-PEX

The color of plastic pipe is NOT an indicator of the type of plastic it is made of. The best way to identify plastic pipe is by the printed markings on the side of the pipe.



Submit Your Findings

Please fill out and return the following questionnaire to your utility. Be sure to attach the photos you took of your service line.

The following information is requested to fulfill new requirements under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR). Your utility will provide instructions on how to submit this questionnaire.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Account Number: _____

Address or Mile Marker: _____

What is the material of the service line you identified in Step 2? (circle one)

- | | | | |
|--------|------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Copper | Plastic- PEX | Plastic- PVC | Plastic- HDPE |
| Lead | Galvanized Steel | Unknown | Other- Specify Below |

If other, please specify: _____

What year was the service line installed or replaced? _____

What is the diameter of the service line (in inches)? _____

Does the service line have a lead connector? (circle one) Yes No Unknown

Does the service line have lead solder? (circle one) Yes No Unknown

What is the primary usage of this building? (circle one)

- | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|----------|----------------------|
| Single Family | Multi-Family/ Person | School | Child Care Facility |
| Child Care in Home | School/Child Care Built After 2014 | Building | Other- Specify Below |

If other, please specify: _____

Does this building have Point-of-Entry (POE) or Point-of-Use (POU) Treatment?*

Yes, POE

Yes, POU

No

Unknown

*POE treatment devices are located where water enters a building and treats for multiple sinks/uses throughout the building, such as a water softener.

POU treatment devices are applied to a single tap, such as an under-the-sink reverse osmosis (RO) or filtration system.

What is the primary material of the Interior Plumbing in the building you identified in Step 4? (circle one)

Copper

Plastic- PEX

Plastic- PVC

Plastic- HDPE

Plastic- Mixed

Steel

Unknown

Other- Specify
Below

If other, please specify: _____

If copper, was the solder installed before 1989?: Yes No Unknown-
Likely yes Unknown-
Likely no Unknown

Please circle an estimated date range of when the interior plumbing was installed or changed.

Before 1960

1960 - 1988

1989 - 2014

After 2014

Unknown

Is this building, or has this building ever been a lead and copper sample site?

Yes, currently

Yes, previously

No

Unknown

Remember to attach the photos you took of your service line to this questionnaire when you submit it to your utility. Once the utility receives your questionnaire, they will review the information you provided and reach out to you directly if they have any questions. Thank you for doing your part to keep Alaska's drinking water safe!

For More Information

Alaska Drinking Water Program Guidance: <https://dec.alaska.gov/eh/dw/lcrr>

EPA LCRR Guidance: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/revised-lead-and-copper-rule>

LSLR Collaborative Guidance: <https://www.lslr-collaborative.org/identifying-service-line-material.html>