

IDENTIFYING SERVICE LINE MATERIAL

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LEAD AND COPPER IN YOUR HOME

ABOUT LEAD AND COPPER: Lead and copper are rarely found in source waters; however, both of these metals can enter drinking water by leaching from household plumbing and fixtures.

Water that sits in your pipes for long periods of time may dissolve tiny amounts of lead and/ or copper (parts per billion levels) into household water. The United States Environmental

Protection Agency (USEPA) has developed the Lead and Copper Rule to protect public health by establishing an action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb) for lead and 1300 ppb for copper.

Lead is very dangerous to human health. For children, lead exposure can cause irreversible and life-long health effects, including affecting IQ, focus, and academic achievement. Plumbing and plumbing fixtures is a potential source of lead in homes that can contaminate drinking water.

EMWD LEAD AND COPPER STUDY: In accordance with the new Federal regulations and guidelines released on August 4, 2022, EMWD is conducting a lead and copper service line study throughout its service area.

Previous studies have indicated that EMWD customers were not at risk; however, USEPA and the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water require that lead pipelines on the customer side of the water meter, built prior to 1986, need to be identified.

Identifying Types of Pipes:

Lead: A dull, silver-gray color that is easily scratched with a coin. Strong magnets will not stick to lead pipes.

Steel: A dull, silver-gray color. Strong magnets will stick to galvanized steel pipes.

Copper: The color of a penny.

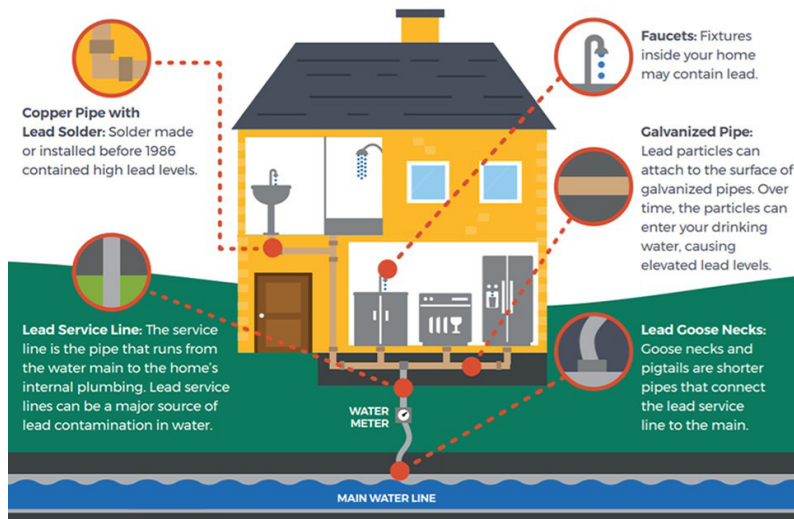
Plastic: Rigid, white pipe that is usually connected to water supply piping with a clamp.





HOW TO CHECK:

Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) water service lines are not made of lead. However, the water service line on the customer's side of the water meter may be made of lead or steel. Lead may also be found in older brass fixtures, valves, solder or epoxy where pipes are joined.



Customers may check the water service line on their side of the water meter to determine if it contains lead. Customers will need either a key or coin, or a strong magnet and should follow these steps:

1. Locate your water meter, which is typically in the front yard of your home.
2. Carefully scratch the pipe on your side of the water meter with a key or coin, taking care to not make a hole in the pipe. If the scratch turns a shiny silver color, the pipe may contain lead or steel.
3. Place a magnet on the pipe. If it sticks, the pipe is steel. The magnet will not stick to lead or copper.

Customers may also purchase a lead test kit at a home improvement store. The kit will test what the material of the pipe and not the water inside of it. It is encouraged to use a USEPA recognized testing kit. A licensed plumber may also inspect your pipes and plumbing fixtures for lead or steel. Replacing older brass faucets or valves may also reduce the amount of lead that seeps into the water in your home.

MORE INFORMATION



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