Pipe Identification Procedures

How To Identify A Lead Water Service Pipe

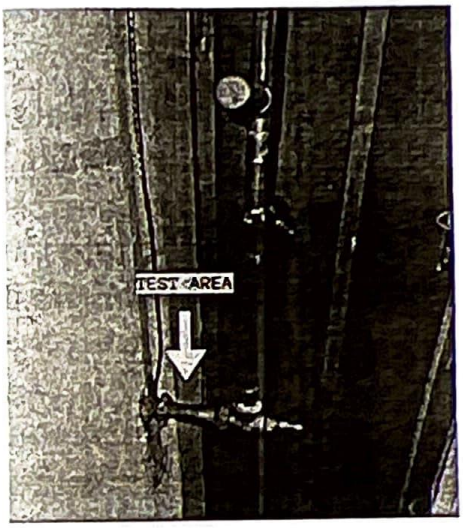
Tools Needed:

Flathead Screwdriver, Refrigerator Magnet & A Penny (or other coin)

Step 1: Locate the water service line coming into the building and spotted to be tested.

The incoming water service in your home can either come up from the basement floor or out of the sidewall. If you do not have a basement, the incoming water service should come through the floor on the main level of the building.

Once the service line is located where it enters the building, you will need to identify the test area. The test area should be within the very first foot of the pipe entering the building. If the pipe is covered or wrapped, expose a small area of the pipe.

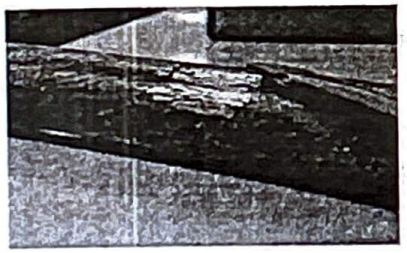


Step 2: Scratch the surface of the pipe.

Use the flat edge of the screwdriver to scratch through any corrosion that may have built up on the outside of the pipe. Do Not use a knife or other sharp instrument that could puncture a hole in pipe.

Step 3: Compare your findings to the chart below.

Each pipe will produce a different type of scratch, react to the magnet differently and produce a unique sound when tapped with a metal coin.

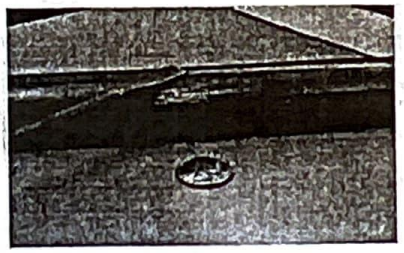


Lead Pipes

The Scratch Test
If the scraped area is shiny and silver, your service line is lead.

The Magnet Test
A magnet will not stick to a lead pipe.

The Tapping Test
Tapping a lead pipe with a coin will produce a dull noise.

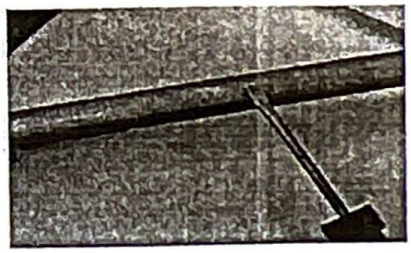


Copper Pipes

The Scratch Test
If the scraped area is copper in color, like a penny, your service line is copper.

The Magnet Test
A magnet will not stick to a copper pipe.

The Tapping Test
Tapping a copper pipe with a coin will produce a metallic ringing noise.



Galvanized Pipes

The Scratch Test
If the scraped area remains a dull gray, your service line is galvanized steel.

The Magnet Test
A magnet sticks to a galvanized pipe.

The Tapping Test
Tapping a galvanized pipe with a coil will produce a metallic ringing noise.