

Lead & Your Drinking Water

The City of West Palm Beach is identifying the material of all services connected to its water distribution system, as mandated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The City performs regular testing for lead throughout the distribution system, as required by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). West Palm Beach consistently maintained lead levels below the 15 parts per billion (ppb) lead action level, set by the Lead & Copper Rule, for over two decades. The latest testing results, performed in 2023, indicated a 90th percentile of 1.3 ppb, well below the action level. West Palm Beach is committed to providing its residents with safe, clean drinking water.

← Scan the QR code to the left to access West Palm Beach's **Water Service Material Inventory Portal**.

Scan the QR code to the right to access the City's **Lead Service Line** webpage. →

What is Lead?

Lead is a naturally occurring mineral found in the earth's crust. Since it is easy to extract from the ground and is a soft and malleable material, this element had been used for years in various products. Upon discovery that lead can be harmful, its use has declined.

For more information on lead, visit the CDC website at: [cdc.gov/nceh/lead/prevention/health-effects.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/prevention/health-effects.htm)

How does lead enter drinking water?

Lead can enter treated drinking water when plumbing materials that contain lead corrode or such plumbing materials are disturbed. The most common sources of lead in drinking water are lead pipes, faucets, and fixtures, with the most significant source of lead being lead water service lines. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Fetuses, newborns, children under 6 and pregnant or breast-feeding mothers are most vulnerable to the harmful effects of lead poisoning.

Protect Your Household



Filter water



Run faucet before use



Use cold water for cooking & drinking



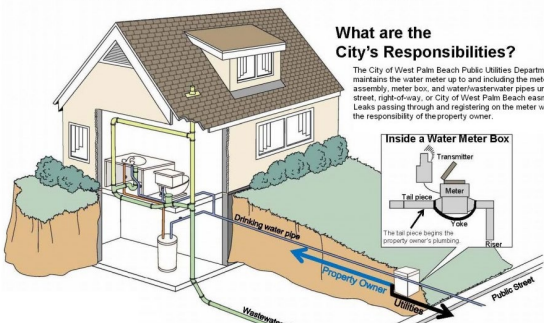
Clean aerators

Where Does My Plumbing Begin?

The Property Owner maintains water pipe from end of meter box (including tail piece) to buildings. The property owner is responsible for pipes and fixtures in the buildings and wastewater pipes until the edge of street or street right-of-way.

What are the City's Responsibilities?

The City of West Palm Beach Public Utilities Department maintains the water meter up to and including the meter yoke, assembly, meter box, and water/wastewater pipes under the street, right-of-way, or City of West Palm Beach easements. Leaks passing through and registering on the meter will be the responsibility of the property owner.



What is a water service line?

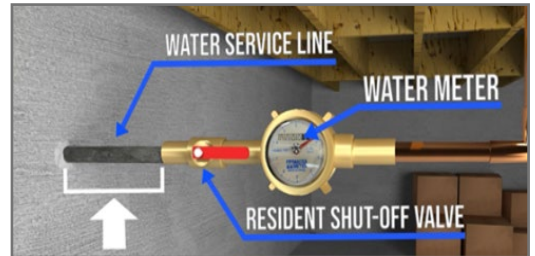
A water service line is an underground pipe that carries water from the public water main to your home.

Who owns the service line?

Maintaining a service line is a shared responsibility between the City and property owners. The City owns the portion from the main to the water meter, and the property owner owns the portion from the water meter into the building. The best way to minimize exposure to lead is to get the lead out!

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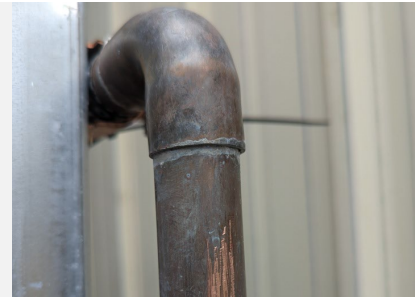
You typically can identify the material of your water service line by visually inspecting the water pipe at the backflow assembly or house valve. In the event of a galvanized steel or lead water service line, you may need to perform a simple magnet or scratch test on the visible portion of the pipe where it enters your home.



COPPER



- Visual Inspection: Pipe is typically a dullish brown in color, but may have a green/blue patina.
- Magnet Test: A magnet **will not** stick to a copper pipe.
- Scratch Test: If you scratch a copper pipe with a coin/screw-driver, the scraped area will be copper, like a penny.



PVC/PLASTIC



- Visual Inspection: Pipe is typically white, blue or black in color.
- Magnet Test: A magnet **will not** stick to a PVC/Plastic pipe.
- Scratch Test: A scratch test is not needed.



GALVANIZED STEEL



- Visual Inspection: Pipe is typically dullish grey in color.
- Magnet Test: A magnet **will** stick to a galvanized pipe.
- Scratch Test: If you scratch a galvanized steel pipe with a coin/screw-driver, the scraped area will remain a dullish grey color.



LEAD



- Visual Inspection: Pipe is typically dullish grey in color.
- Magnet Test: A magnet **will not** stick to a lead pipe.
- Scratch Test: If you scratch a lead pipe with a coin/screw-driver, the scraped area will be a shiny silver color and will flake off.



Visit the City of West Palm Beach's lead webpage at [\[web link\]](#).