

# How to Inspect Your Water Service Pipe

**Tools needed:** Flathead screwdriver, refrigerator magnet, and a coin



**Step 1** - Locate the water service line (pipe) entering the building. This is typically found in the basement. A valve and the water meter are installed on the pipe after the point of entry. Identify a test area on the pipe between the point where it enters the building and the valve. If the pipe is covered or wrapped, expose a small area of metal.

**Step 2** - Scratch the surface of the pipe. Use the flat edge of a screwdriver to 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, react differently to the magnet, and produce a unique sound when tapped with a metal coin.

## Lead Pipe

- Scratch Test – If the scraped area is shiny and silver, the pipe is lead.
- Magnet Test – A magnet will not stick to a lead pipe.
- Tapping Test – Tapping a lead pipe with a coin will produce a dull noise.



## Copper Pipe

- Scratch Test – If the scraped area is copper in color, like a penny, the pipe is copper.
- Magnet Test – A magnet will not stick to a copper pipe.
- Tapping Test – Tapping a copper pipe with a coin will produce a metallic ringing noise.



## Galvanized Pipe

- Scratch Test – If the scraped area remains a dull gray, the pipe is galvanized steel.
- Magnet Test – A magnet sticks to a galvanized pipe.
- Tapping Test – Tapping a galvanized pipe with a coin will produce a metallic ringing noise.



# WATER SERVICE PIPE MATERIAL SURVEY FOR CUSTOMERS

By Theresa Spalletta, Manager of Technical and Regulatory Affairs

The City of Middletown works diligently to ensure the water provided to all their customers is safe. As part of this effort we are asking for your help to determine the type of water service line (pipe) entering your home. The Middletown Water Department's (MWD) records are incomplete prior to 1950. It is possible that some of these pre-1950 pipes were constructed out of lead or were coated with lead.

Water service pipes that contain lead materials pose known health risks. MWD is currently creating an inventory of lead service pipes in our system. This inventory will allow us to apply for state and federal funding which will reduce the cost of replacing any lead water service pipes. The removal of service pipes that contain lead will be mandated by the federal government in the next several years and it is our hope that we can address this issue prior to the requirement.

If you live in a home that was built prior to May 1950 or if you are uncertain when your home built, we are asking you to perform a simple inspection of your service pipe. Please follow the steps on the color insert to determine the material of your water service pipe. Once completed:

1. Print this page, fill out the form below and mail or drop it off the at our office located at 82 Berlin Street, or
2. Use our electronic form on our website <https://middletownct.gov/PipeSurvey>

Thank you for your cooperation, it is sincerely appreciated.

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## General Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Year Home Was Built: \_\_\_\_\_

## Service Pipe Material

- Copper
- Lead
- Galvanized Steel
- Other \_\_\_\_\_