WATER SERVICE LINE MATERIAL IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

In some older homes, lead may be present in the home's plumbing or in the water service line that connects the home to the water system. Lead in water service line pipes or plumbing can dissolve or break off into the water and end up at the tap. Lead can be harmful even at very low levels and can accumulate in our bodies over time. Therefore, wherever possible, steps should be taken to reduce or eliminate your household's exposure to lead. The best way to remove the risk of lead in water is to completely replace all sources of lead. However, you will first need to confirm the material of your water service line and internal plumbing to see if replacements are necessary. While going through the identification steps below, it is important to take the pictures requested and upload them to the form on our website. If we do not receive the pictures and form, you will remain catorgorized as "unknown" or "lead" in our system and will continue to receive outreach regarding this, as required by regulations. Please use caution when performing the visual, scratch, and magnet tests to avoid causing damage to pipe material and to avoid injuring yourself.

WHAT DO THE DIFFERENT MATERIALS LOOK LIKE?

	LEAD	GALVANIZED STEEL	COPPER	PLASTIC
OUTER APPEARANCE	Dull gray, bendable, often curves between wall/floor and valve	Dark gray or black, straight rigid pipe	Brown, can have green corrosion spots	Often black, bright blue, or white
THREADS AT CONNECTIONS	No	Yes	No	No
SCRATCH TEST RESULTS	Shiny silver	Hard to scratch, remains gray	Looks like a penny	Remains original color
MAGNET TEST RESULTS	Does not stick	Magnet will stick	Does not stick	Does not stick

SUBMIT YOUR RESULTS TO PENNICHUCK

Make notes of your findings through out the visual, scratch, and magnet test process, and take the photos requested below to submit on our website at www.pennichuck.com/water-service-line-inventory-project/.

Take the following photos to submit along with your test results:

1. The pipe entering your house through your wall or floor.
2. A picture of the scratch test on your pipe.
3. A distant view of your pipe that includes your shut-off valve.

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VISUAL TEST

1. Locate the water service line entering your home or business. Check where the pipe comes into the house through the floor or wall, typically in your basement or lowest floor, or where your master shut-off valve is located. It's essential to pinpoint the exact spot where the pipe comes into the home or business. If you cannot see the entry point, try pulling back any insulation that may be blocking the area, and use a phone camera or a flashlight to locate the pipe in more challenging areas.

2. Using the table above, start by identifying the information regarding threads and the initial outer appearance and take note to submit online. Proceed to the scratch test.

SCRATCH TEST

1. With a key or coin, scratch the pipe's surface to reveal the metal beneath any paint or corrosion that may be present. Lead is easily scratched.

2. Notate your findings to submit to Pennichuck and proceed to the magnet test.

MAGNET TEST

1. In the same area you conducted the scratch test, attempt to attach a magnet to the pipe. A magnet will not adhere to a lead pipe.

2. Notate your findings to submit to Pennichuck and move on to taking photos of your pipes.

SUBMIT YOUR RESULTS ONLINE

Visit www.pennichuck.com/water-service-line-inventory-project/ to submit your results on the form at the bottom of the page.

Pennichuck Water
25 Walnut Street
PO Box 428
Nashua, NH 03061-0428
Customer-service@pennichuck.com

Phone (800) 553-5191
Fax (603) 913-2362
www.Pennichuck.com
Facebook.com/PennichuckWater
Linkedin.com/company/Pennichuck-Water

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