

Homeowner's Guide to Lead Water Services

Homeowners will often ask if a home is served by a lead water pipe. To determine presence of lead service or interior plumbing, it is best to contact a licensed plumber or home inspector to inspect the service line or interior plumbing for presence of lead pipes, lead solder, or lead fixtures. As an alternative, the following will help determine the water pipe material serving your home.

Homes built before 1947 are known to have lead services. Some of these services, or parts of services, may have been replaced over the years in conjunction with water main replacements. Note that the service from the water main to the meter is owned by the customer.

Service laterals consist of two parts: 1) the pipe between the water main and the curb stop (under the street), and 2) the pipe from the curb stop to the house/meter. The two parts could be of different service material. Service materials in either case could be lead, galvanized, copper, or poly/plastic.

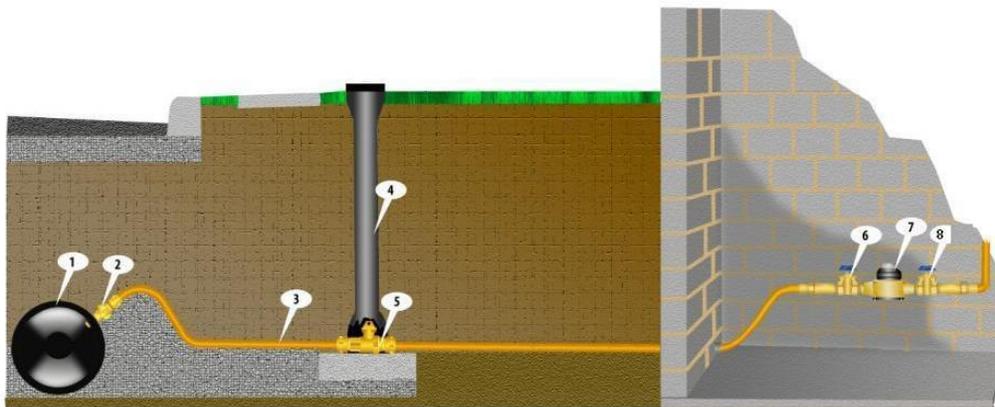
1) Main to Curb Stop – Oconomowoc Utilities retains water service cards which may have information related to the installation date and pipe material from the water main to the curb stop. This information was documented at the time the service was installed, but may not have up-to-date information if the service was replaced. Oconomowoc Utilities may be able to provide you this information by calling 262-569-2196.

2) Curb Stop to House – The pipe material used for the section of service from the curb stop to the house will generally be exposed in the basement, before the water meter.

i. **Lead pipe** service lines are generally a dull gray color and are very soft. A magnet will not stick to lead pipe. They can be identified easily by carefully scratching them with a key or coin. If the pipe is made of lead, the area you've scratched will turn a bright silver color.

ii. **Galvanized steel pipes** are dull gray in color. A magnet will stick to galvanized steel pipe.

iii. **Copper pipe** will be reddish in color. A magnet will not stick to copper pipe.



Typical Water Service 1

- Water Main

2 - Corporation tap/valve

3 - Service pipe

4 - Curb Box

5 - Curb stop (valve)

6 - Service control valve

7 - Water meter

8 - Building control valve

Lead services may also have evidence of a lead solder “bulb” which might transition lead service pipe to the homes galvanized pipe.



Replacement and Repair of Service Laterals:

The service pipe, fittings and appurtenances from the main into the premises served is owned by the property owner. All repairs or replacements shall be at the property owner's expense. Whenever a service does not conform to the conditions and requirements set forth in these rules, the utility may require the property owner to replace the service at the property owner's expense. The property owner shall maintain the service lateral from the curb stop to the point of use. If an owner fails to repair a leaking or broken service lateral from the curb to the point of metering or use within such time as may appear reasonable to the water utility after notification has been served on the owner by the water utility, the water will be shut off and will not be turned on again until the repairs have been completed.