

Pipe Identification Instructions



How to Identify the Material of Your Water Service Pipes in Three Easy Steps

What You'll Need:



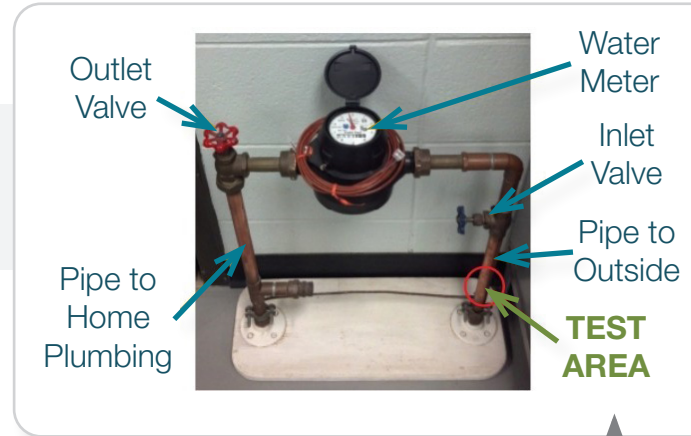
Flathead
Screwdriver



Magnet
(any refrigerator magnet will work)



Coin



Step 1: Locate the Water Service Line & Test Area

The water service line is typically found in the basement. Identify a test area on the pipe **between the point where it comes into the building and the inlet valve**. If the pipe is covered or wrapped, expose a small area of metal.

**Note: If your pipes don't look like this example, please still try to test the pipe material. If you have questions, contact Public Works.*

Step 2: Test the Pipe Material

You can find out your type of pipe by doing the **scratch, magnet and tapping tests**. Take note of the reaction.



You have a lead pipe if...



The Scratch Test

...the scraped area is shiny and silver.



The Magnet Test

...the magnet will not stick to the pipe.



The Tapping Test

...tapping a coin on the pipe makes a dull noise.



You have a copper pipe if...



The Scratch Test

...the scraped area is copper in color, like a penny.



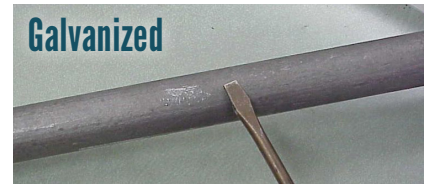
The Magnet Test

...the magnet will not stick to the pipe.



The Tapping Test

...tapping a coin on the pipe makes a metallic ringing noise.



You have a galvanized pipe if...



The Scratch Test

...the scraped area remains a dull gray.



The Magnet Test

...the magnet sticks to the pipe.



The Tapping Test

...tapping a coin on the pipe makes a metallic ringing noise.

Step 3: Share Your Results

Submit your test results online or via the enclosed paper survey. Paper surveys can be returned by mail using the enclosed envelope.

Not sure what kind of pipes you have? Call Public Works at 847.391.5464 to schedule an inspection.

desplaines.org/pipesurvey

Visit our website or scan the QR code to submit your test results by **June 7 2024**.

