## City of Richmond Service Line Material Self Reporting Survey

The City of Richmond is developing a publicly available inventory of water service lines (the service line is a pipe that runs horizontally from the water main in the roadway to a building's interior plumbing) as part of a mandate by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Lead and Copper Rule Revisions. The purpose of the inventory is to identify the horizontal service line material so that those service lines made of lead or galvanized steel can ultimately be replaced.

Step 1: Find Your Property - Scan the QR code or go to this website: https://arcq.is/10bP4. Is the Customer-owned service line material unknown and is the survey link active? If yes, follow these steps to determine your material type and fill in the survey!

#### **Step 2: Gather Materials**

Key, coin, or screwdriver

Flashlight

Water Meter

- Magnet
- Camera or phone

### Step 3: Locate Your Water Service Line Where it Enters the Building

The service line can often be seen where it enters a building in the crawlspace or basement. It's key to identify the service line material on the part of the pipe closest to where the line enters the building from the ground. Tip #1: Finding your water meter outside can give you a clue as to where the line may enter your building. Tip #2: Find your water shutoff valve and trace the plumbing line back to where the line enters the building.

Why is Identifying the Material Where the Pipe Enters the Building Important?

Sometimes interior plumbing has been updated to non-lead, but the buried service line is still lead or galvanized. In this example, the interior plumbing is copper and plastic, but pulling back the vapor varier shows the service line is still lead.



MATERIAL HERE







Sticky note





#### Step 4: Magnet Test

Place a magnet on your water service line where it enters the building. Note if it sticks or not.

#### Step 5: Scratch Test

Using a key, coin, screwdriver or other tool, lightly scratch your water service line where it enters the building. Note the color of the pipe when scratched.

**Step 6: Determine the Pipe Material –** key differentiators are circled below. Tip #3: Lead pipes sometime have a "bulb" and appear to bend. Plastic pipe can be white, grey, blue, black, or other colors.

PIPE MATERIAL	Copper	Galvanized	Eead	Plastic/HDPE/PVC
SCRATCH RESULT	Copper or orange color	Dull gray color	Shiny silver color	Matches surface
MAGNET RESULT	Not magnetic	Magnetic	Not magnetic	Not magnetic
TAPPING RESULT	Metallic, ringing noise	Metallic, ringing noise	Dull noise	Dull, plastic noise

#### Step 7: Take 2 Photos so the City can Validate Results before Posting to the Public Map

The first photo should be a close-up of the pipe. The photo should show the wall or ground where the pipe is entering and show the scratched area and magnet (if it stuck). The second photo should show a zoomed out view of the pipe as it enters the building and also show the scratched area and magnet (if it stuck). Tip #4: If there are multiple pipes in either photo, label the pipe you are identifying with a sticky note so the City can validate your submittal.





Photo 1: Close-up of scratch & magnet test and point of pipe entry from the ground or wall

Photo 2: Zoomed out showing scratch & magnet test and point of pipe entry from the ground or wall

# **Still Need Help?**

Contact the Lead Free Water Helpline: 804-646-8600 or reach out to a plumber participating in



the Service Line Inventory Plumber Program for a free material identification if your property is eligible. See QR code or

https://bit.ly/SLIPlumberProgram for more detail. For Additional Tips and Notes about inaccessible lines, service lines at the meter, and photo do's and don'ts, visit www.rva.gov/public-utilities/leadfreewater