

MADAWASKA WATER DISTRICT

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March 15, 2024

Madawaska Water District is requesting your help!

The US Environmental Protection Agency has revised the Drinking Water Lead & Copper Rule. Part of the revisions to the Rule requires us to develop and maintain a water service line inventory by October 16, 2024. This includes the portion owned by the District from the street to the property line and the portion from the property line to inside your building.

This mandate is a very daunting task which, without your help, we would be required to visit your building to determine the pipe material.

We are very fortunate that our staff has excavated countless service lines here in Madawaska and to date we have not encountered a lead service line. On very few occasions, we may find galvanized lines and our practice is to inform the property owner that they should consider replacing those lines.

We are requesting your help to confirm that your water service line is not a galvanized steel/iron or lead service line.

Included with this letter is an instruction sheet explaining how you can determine what material you have for your service line. Please complete the tear off portion and return it to us in the enclosed postage paid envelope.

For your participation, your name will be entered into a raffle for a \$150 gift card/certificate at any local business of your choosing!! The drawing will be held at the Board of Trustees meeting held in June.

Thank you,

Madawaska Water District Staff

LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY SURVEY



1

Find Your Service Line Pipe



Your water meter could be located inside your home's basement or crawlspace. The service line will enter the house from underground through the floor or foundation wall, before connecting to the water meter. There will be shutoff valves on one or both sides of the water meter. Residential service lines are ¾ to 2 inches in diameter.

2

Test the Pipe Material

Once you've located where the service line pipe enters your home, find a spot on the pipe closest to the wall/floor before it connects to a valve and/or meter. This is where you will verify the pipe's material. Have the following items with you:

Refrigerator Magnet: to test if the pipe is made of steel

Coin or Key: to scratch the pipe to reveal the metal's color and hardness

Flashlight or Mobile Phone Light: to clearly see the pipe

Plastic



Plastic pipes are found in a variety of materials and colors. When tapped with a coin, they won't produce a ringing sound like the following metal pipes will.

Copper



If when scratched the pipe is orange and shiny like a penny, your pipe is made of copper. A magnet will not stick to it.

Galvanized Steel / Iron



If the pipe is silvery gray and hard to scratch, place your magnet on it. If the magnet sticks, your pipe is galvanized steel or galvanized iron.

Galvanized pipes may be sources of lead, as they can trap it on inside surfaces and contaminate water even after lead plumbing is removed. If you have a galvanized pipe, it indicates an older installation, and you should have your water tested.

Lead



If the pipe is silvery gray and, 1) is easily scratched, 2) the metal seems soft, and 3) a magnet doesn't stick to it, you likely have a lead pipe.

If you have a lead service line, it should be replaced. Please contact us first.

3

Complete the Lead Service Line Survey

**We appreciate your feedback!
Get the Lead Out!**



Madawaska Water District
66 MAIN STREET
MADAWASKA, ME 04756
TEL. (207) 728-3859

ACCOUNT #:
YEAR HOME WAS BUILT _____
DATE TESTED _____
LOCATION:

What material is your service line?
(Select one)

- Plastic
- Copper
- Steel or Iron Pipe/Galvanized
- Lead
- Unknown/Unsure

How did you determine the material?
(Choose one)

- Scratch Test
- Visual
- Magnet Test
- Plumber or Other Qualified Professional

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MADAWASKA, ME 04756-1510