How to Find Out if You Have a Lead Service Line

Complete the steps below and submit your results. This information will help in the planning of a City-wide lead pipe replacement program.

You will need:
• Key or a coin
• Strong refrigerator magnet

1. Find the water meter in your basement. Look at the pipe that comes through the outside wall of your home and connects to your meter.

2. Carefully scratch the pipe (like you would a lottery ticket) with a key or a coin. Do not use a knife or other sharp tool. NOTE: If pipe is painted, use sandpaper to expose the metal first.

3. Place the magnet on the pipe.

4. Compare your pipe to the images below and submit your results at www.albanyny.gov/lead.

Leads
A magnet will not hold. The scratched area will be shiny silver and flake off.

Copper
A magnet will not hold. The scratched area will be copper in color, like a penny.

Steel
A magnet will hold to the surface. A scratch test is not needed.

Albany Water does not have information on the material of your water service line and we need your help collecting this information. Alternatively, please contact Albany Water to schedule an appointment for a staff member to come check the material of your water service line.

The City’s water mains are not made of lead. However, the water service line running from the water main to your home may be made of lead. Free lead testing of your tap water is available, visit www.albanyny.gov/lead