

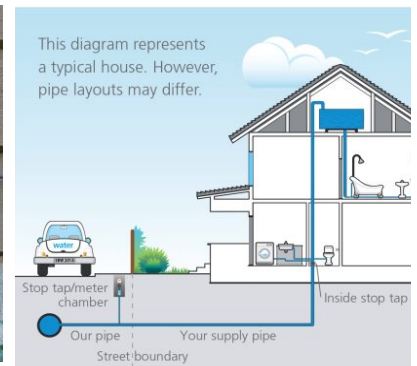
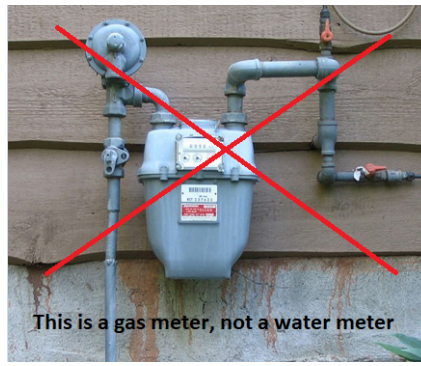
How to Check your Service Line

1. Locate where the water enters your house

The water usually enter your house in one of these 3 areas:

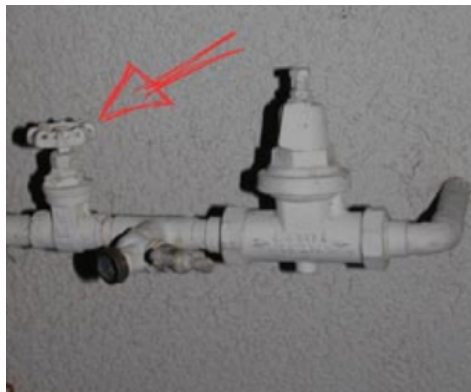
- In a utility room, usually very close to the water heater.
- In your basement or garage
- In your laundry room

If you need help finding where the water line enters your house, go outside and find the water meter. This is usually in a pit in the ground close to the sidewalk/curb. Draw a straight line from that point to your house. The water line should come into your house close to that point.



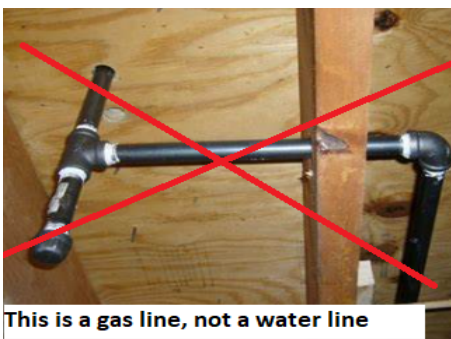
2. Find where the pipe enters your house (on the inside of the house).

You will typically see some sort of a shut-off valve just after the line enters your house. This could either be a lever (ball valve) or a wheel-like valve (gate valve). Your line may or may not have a pressure regulator valve on the line (the dome shaped object in the second (white) picture).



The area of the line that we need you to check is the part of the line that comes into the house, before any other valves or pipes joins on it.

This line will either be Lead, Galvanized Steel, Copper or Plastic.



3. Check the color of the water service line.

Identify what material your water service line is made of. Be sure to look at the water service line itself and not the connection, glue, or solder. If the line is painted, you will need to scrape off the pain to see the color of the service line. We have divided the lines into 2 groups:

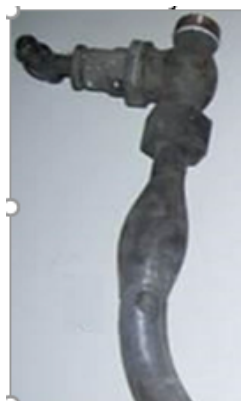
- A. **Plastic lines** - We classify all PVC, PEX (black, blue, red or white) or poly lines as “plastic”.
- B. **Metal** - All metal lines will tarnish. To check the type of metal line that you have, clean the pipe.
 - a. Copper or orange like a penny
 - b. Silver or grey. Be sure not to report surface rust as the color as galvanized lines can appear red when rusted. Both Galvanized Steel and Lead pipes are silver/grey in color (Lead lines are dark gray, and galvanized lines are dull gray), and it is hard to visually distinguish the two apart. To be able to tell the difference between the two, we will need a couple of items: a flat-head screw driver and a magnet.



Old Galvanized Steel can look red when oxidized

4. Check the properties of the water service line.

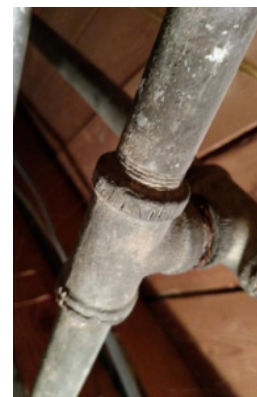
- A. Look at the lines:
 1. Are there bulges (bulbs) in the line? – your line might be lead
 2. Is there any green colored corrosion on the line? – your line might be copper
 3. Is there any threads on the pipe? – your line might be galvanized steel.



Bulb In Line



Green Corrosion

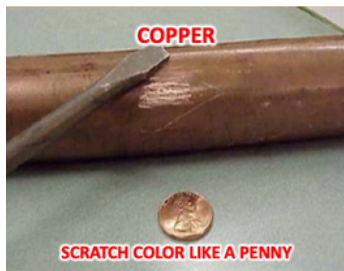


Threaded Line

B. Scratch the surface of the pipe with a flat head screw driver.

Check to see how easily the surface scratches. Lead will scratch very easily, copper scratches fairly easy, and galvanized does not scratch easily at all. As stated earlier, make sure that you are scratching the pipe itself, not any paint or corrosion on the pipe.



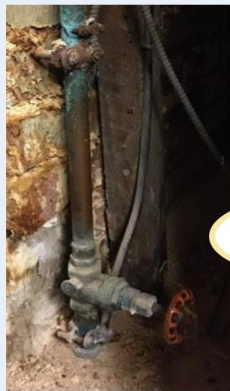

1. Is the scratch brown or copper? If yes, you have copper lines.
2. Is the scratch shiny? – If yes, you might have lead lines.
3. Is the scratch dull? – If yes, you might have galvanized lines.



C. Place a magnet on the pipe.

1. Does the magnet stick to the pipe? – If yes, you might have galvanized lines.

Here's a Quick Guide to Help You Understand the Difference:

	Lead	Galvanized Iron	Copper	Brass
Outer Appearance	Dull gray, bendable; Often curves between wall/floor and valve	Dark gray or black; Straight rigid pipe	Brown; Can have green corrosion spots	Brown; Can have green corrosion spots
Threads at connections	None	Yes	None	Yes
Scratch Test (coin or key)	Only pipes that are soft metal scratch easily	Hard to scratch, remains gray	Copper, like a penny	Gold color
Magnet Test	Does not stick	Magnet WILL stick	Does not stick	Does not stick
Picture	 <p>Bulb</p>	 <p>Threads</p>		 <p>Threads</p>