





TYPES OF WATER PIPES

Follow the guidance below or contact a licensed plumber to determine the material of your water pipes. To identify the material of your service pipe material on private property, check your household water service connection, typically located in the basement. Homeowners should identify and replace old household pipes, particularly lead and galvanized plumbing. The type of household plumbing can vary throughout your household.

<p>Galvanized A dull, silver-gray color. Use a magnet - strong magnets will typically cling to galvanized pipes.</p>	
<p>Copper The color of a copper penny.</p>	
<p>Plastic White, rigid pipe that is joined to water supply piping with a clamp.</p>	
<p>Lead A dull, silver-gray color that is easily scratched with a coin. Use a magnet - strong magnets will not cling to lead pipes.</p>	

Lead Plumbing & Impacts on Water Quality

Lead pipes, including service lines that connect the house to the water main in the street, were predominantly installed in many homes until the mid-1950s and a minority were installed through 1986. Lead solder connects pipes in household plumbing. Lead solder was used in plumbing prior to 1987. Almost all faucets, valves, and fittings have brass components that contain lead. Until 2014, brass faucets and fittings sold in the United States that are labeled "lead-free" can contain up to eight percent lead. "Lead-free" plumbing fixtures after 2014 contain 0.25 percent lead or less.



Galvanized Plumbing & Impacts on Water Quality

Galvanized pipes are old, iron pipes that were installed in many homes built before the 1960s. Over many years, old corrosion scales build up inside the walls of galvanized pipes. These pipes can cause discolored water and pressure issues. Galvanized pipes can also release lead in water if you have, or ever had, a lead service pipe. When lead is released from a lead service pipe and passes through galvanized plumbing (particularly over decades of use), lead can accumulate on the inside, corroded walls of this plumbing. Lead release from galvanized pipes can vary from home to home and can continue to occur even after a lead service pipe is replaced.



If you have questions about your drinking water or are experiencing water quality issues, please contact the Public Works Department at 309-434-2225.