

Identifying water service line materials

Follow these easy steps to determine the material of your water lines. They are typically of these four materials: Plastic, Copper, Galvanized Steel, or Lead.

Step 1: Locate where the water service line comes into your home. Typically, in your basement or lowest part of your home.

(For the following steps, if the lines have been painted or heavily corroded, you may need to scrape off or remove a small portion for identification)

Step 2: Determine if the line is of plastic or metallic composition.

Plastic lines include pvc, cpvc, polyethylene, and pex. These materials may be various colors.



- If plastic, the test is complete.
- *If metallic, continue to step 3.*

Step 3: Determine if the material is Copper, Galvanized steel or Lead.

- Is the line magnetic? If a magnet sticks to the line, it is galvanized steel.
- **Galvanized steel** is very rigid, may be corroded or rusty, and will remain dull in color if scratched with a coin or metallic object.



- *If it is NOT magnetic, continue to step 4.*

Step 4: Determine if the line is copper or Lead

- **Copper** lines will be the same color as a penny when scratched but may have a slight green tint if old and oxidized.



- **Lead** lines are soft material and scratch easily with a coin or metal object. The scratched area will also be bright and “new” looking.



Please notify the City of Carlinville Water office of your service line material as well as date installed if known at 1-217-854-4752

The Service Line Material information you're providing will be added to the City's database. We are required to submit a copy of the City's database to the Illinois Department of Transportation each year in April. If you replace your service, please remember to inform the City so the database can be updated.