

# Crystal Lake Drinking Water and Lead Q&A

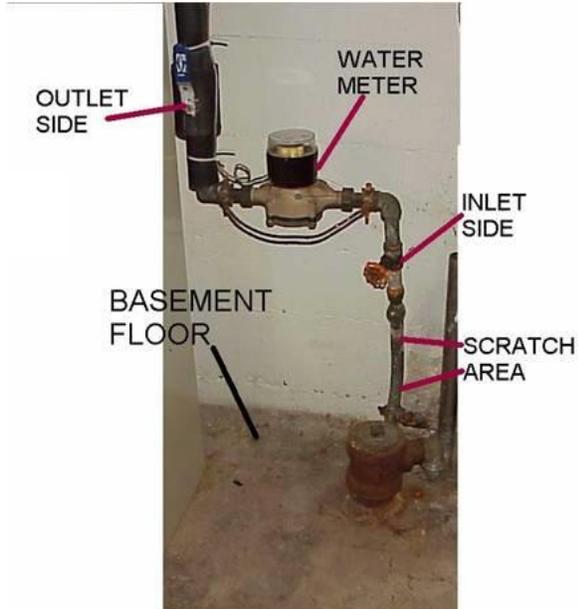
## Is my water line made out of lead?

You can use the table and pictorial below to help you identify your home's service line material entering the home.

How to check your home's service line yourself:

1. Locate where the water service pipe comes into the house, generally in the basement or lowest level of the home. It will likely look similar to the first image shown below.
2. Locate a "scratch area" on the pipe. This should be in the area between where the pipe comes into the building, and the inlet valve.
3. If the pipe is covered or wrapped, expose a small area of the pipe.
4. Get a flat head screwdriver. You will use the flat edge of it to scratch a small area of pipe.
5. On the "scratch area", use the screwdriver to gently scratch back and forth a few times in one small area. Compare your results to the images shown below.

We thank the City of Madison (WI) Water Department for the images shown below.



Lead Service Line:  
Silver/dull gray color and a magnet will not stick to it.



Copper Service Line:  
Copper color like a penny & a magnet will not stick to it.



Galvanized Service Line:  
Dull gray/silver color and a magnet will stick to it.



If you are still unsure if your water line is lead, you can call to schedule the Public Works Department to come to your home and verify the water service material that is entering your home.

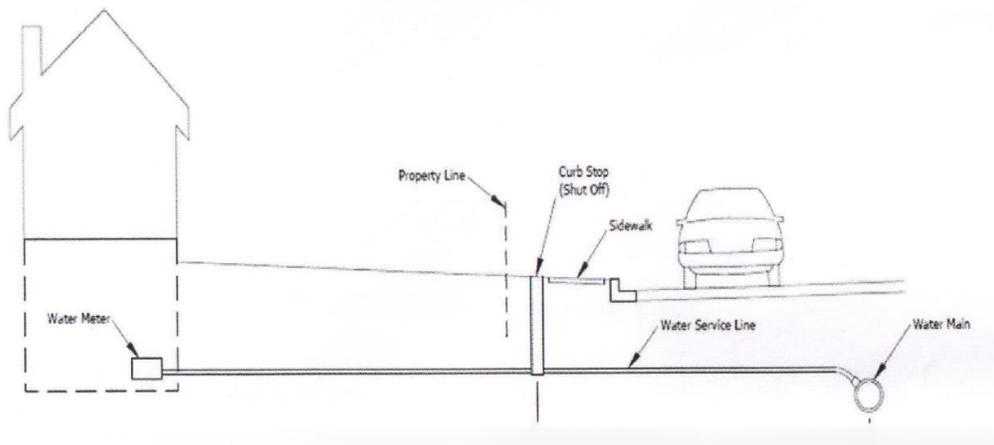
### **Will the City replace my water line if it is lead?**

The water service line to a home/ building consists of two separate pieces of pipe connected together at a valve know as a curb stop or B-box (buffalo box). The pipe running from the curb stop/B-box to the building is the homeowner's responsibility.

The pipe from the curb stop/buffalo box (usually located near the property's easement) to the water main is the City's responsibility.

Replacing only one segment of the line increases the potential for lead in the water from the existing disturbed line.

If a property owner replaces the lead service line on the building side (homeowner's responsibility), the City will replace the lead water service line on the water main side at no cost to the property owner.



### **What does Crystal Lake do to control elevated lead levels?**

The City of Crystal Lake complies with all IEPA requirements including sampling and testing for lead in predetermined households throughout the City. The City's water treatment process includes the addition of a corrosion inhibitor, which forms a protective layer to reduce the potential of lead leaching from plumbing materials into the drinking water. Water samples are collected and analyzed daily to ensure the corrosion control is meeting IEPA requirements.

### **What can I do to limit my exposure to lead in drinking water?**

If your water service line or fixtures contain lead, you may want to consider purchasing a water filter. This water filter will need to be located after the fixtures containing lead. Read the package to be sure the filter is certified to remove "total lead", or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010.

### **How can I test my water for lead?**

The City of Crystal Lake is not certified to analyze for lead in the drinking water. Information for testing your water for lead is available by calling EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791. If you would like to test your water for lead, please contact a certified lab. The typical cost for a lead analysis is about \$30-\$50. The Illinois EPA maintains a list of environmental labs accredited to perform water testing including lead.