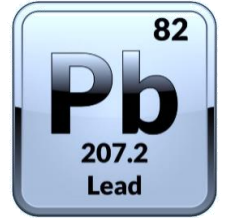




Wallingford Water Division Lead Awareness



Why is the Wallingford Water Division conducting a water service line inventory?

The Wallingford Water Division (WWD) must submit to the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health an inventory of every service line in our service district no later than October 16, 2024 - including the material type for both the utility-owned and customer-owned portions of each water service line. The WWD must classify the utility-owned and customer-owned portions of the service line as: lead; galvanized steel in need of replacement (if it was ever downstream of a lead line); non-lead (e.g., copper); or lead status unknown.

Wallingford Water is lead free when it leaves our water treatment plant and travels through the water transmission and distribution mains. However, some homes and buildings served by Wallingford Water may have lead in their plumbing system. This includes service lines, lead pipes within the home, high lead solder used to join copper pipes and older faucets, fittings and fixtures.

What is lead?

Lead is a naturally occurring element (heavy metal) found in small amounts in the earth's crust. While it has beneficial uses, lead can be toxic to humans and animals causing negative health effects, particularly babies and children because their growing bodies absorb more lead than adults' bodies and their brains and nervous systems are more sensitive to the damaging effects of lead.

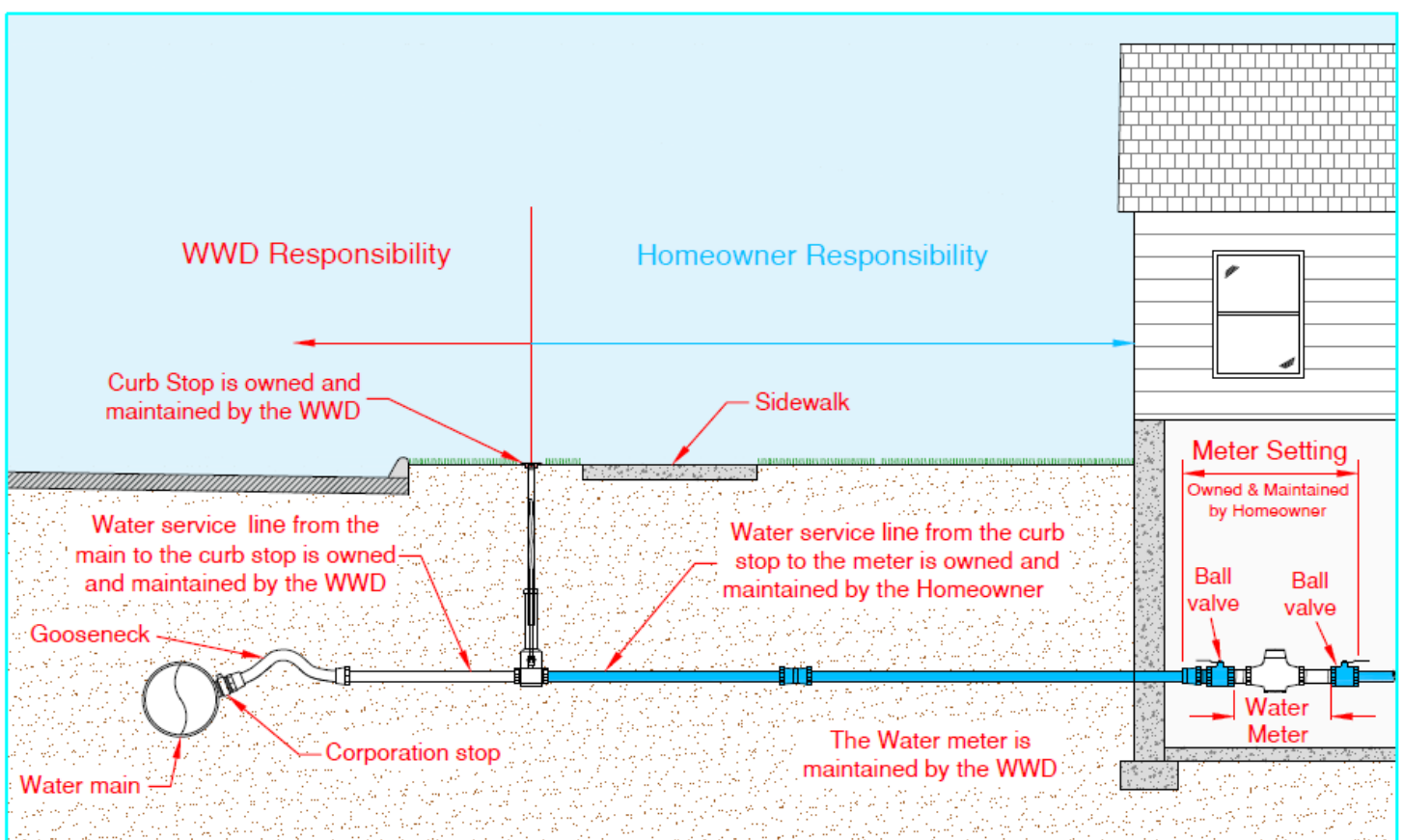
Why was lead used?

The malleability and durability of lead were the main reasons lead was widely used as water piping many years ago.

Where the lead may be present, and who is responsible?

Places that may include lead include the town-owned goosenecks and service lines and customer-owned portions of the water service line, and customer's plumbing including copper plumbing joined with high-lead solder, older faucets, fittings and fixtures.

Goosenecks, otherwise known as connectors and pigtails, are shorter pipes that connect the water service lines to the water main.



Name: _____

Service Pipe Material

Street Address: _____

Copper

Lead

Telephone Number: _____

Galvanized Steel

Other

Account No. (if known): _____

(if other please specify) _____

Date

Knowing the age of plumbing components in your home or building helps you understand the risk of lead exposure through pipes, solder, faucets and fixtures.

Solder – Prior to 1986 solder was typically 50% lead. In 1986, the allowable level of lead in plumbing solder was reduced to less than 0.2%.

Faucets and Fixtures – Before 1986 there were no federal regulations on lead levels in plumbing components. Faucets and plumbing fixtures manufactured between 1986 and 2014 may have up to 8% lead. Faucets and fixtures made after 2014 must have less than 0.25% lead.

Wallingford Water Division Takes Action

Wallingford Water is successful at reducing your potential for exposure to lead in drinking water. Our actions include:

- Protecting pipes by adding orthophosphate during the drinking water treatment process. Orthophosphate forms a protective coating inside water pipes, service lines and your home's plumbing. This prevents water from coming in contact with the pipe material, reducing the likelihood of lead being dissolved into the water supply. Orthophosphate is a food-grade additive.
- Controlling corrosion by keeping the water's pH above 7 at all times.
- Testing the water in homes known to have lead pipes to ensure our corrosion control techniques are successful. **Wallingford Water's Lead Monitoring Test results are well below the U.S. EPA's action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb). In our most recent tests (2022) our compliance results for lead ranged from non-detected to a maximum of 1.9 ppb.**

Test

Test your customer-owned water service line (WSL) to determine its material using the magnet and penny test (below). Test the water service pipe where it enters the home, which is typically in the basement, before the water meter.

Please report the type of water service line material to the Wallingford Water Division by telephone at 203-949-2672, via email at WSL@wallingfordct.gov or return the response via U.S. mail. If emailing, please include your name, service address and account number (if known).

Magnet and Penny Test

Find where the water service line enters your home. Test the pipe to see if a magnet sticks to the pipe. If not, scratch the pipe with a penny to determine color.



Galvanized Steel Pipe

- If a magnet sticks to the surface, your service line is galvanized steel.
- A scratch test is not needed. If you scratch the pipe, it will remain a dull gray.



Lead Pipe

- A magnet will not stick to a lead pipe.
- Scratch the pipe with a coin. If the scraped area is shiny silver and flakes off, the service line is lead.



Copper Pipe

- A magnet will not stick to a copper pipe.
- Scratch the pipe with a penny. If the scraped area is copper in color, like a penny, your service line is copper.

