

## CHARLES COUNTY GOVERNMENT Service Line Assurance Initiative

## **Background Information**

Released in January 2021, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) affect all water utilities in the nation, requiring them for the first time to carry out a service line material inventory and providing guidance for water sampling and reporting results.

A service line is an underground pipe that connects your home to the public water main, delivering water to faucets, bathtubs, showers, and other water outlets.



**STEP 1.** Locate your service line. The service line is typically located in the basement, crawlspace, or near the front of your property. You can also check the water meter. Inspect the area around the water meter. You should see a pipe connected to it – this is the water service line.

**STEP 2.** Using the key, coin, or other tool, lightly scratch your water service line as close to the wall as possible where it enters the home. Note the color.

**STEP 3.** Place a magnet on the pipe. Note if it does not stick.

**STEP 4.** Tap the pipe with a coin. Note the sound. (Continued on the next page)

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PIPE MATERIAL	Copper	Galvanized	Lead	Plastic/HDPE/PVC
SCRATCH RESULT	Copper or orange	Dull gray	Shiny silver	Matches pipe surface
MAGNET RESULT	No	Yes	No	No
TAPPING RESULT	Metallic, ringing noise	Metallic, ringing noise	Dull noise	Dull, plastic noise

**STEP 5.** Submit a photograph of the service line.

- Use a camera or smartphone to capture a clear and well-lit image of the service line material at the point it enters your wall.
- Upload the image. Click on the "Drop file here or select file" bar. Choose the file to upload (make sure it does not exceed 100MB in size).
- Type in a brief description of the file you uploaded. The description should:
  - a. Include where you located the service line
  - b. Not exceed more than 1,000 characters



Thank you for participating in this survey and assisting us with service line material identification

For more information on SLAI, please contact the Department of Public works at 301-609-7400, email Utilities@CharlesCountyMD.gov or visit www.CharlesCountyMD.gov/SLAI